

BLUES

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE
V BOLTON WANDERERS
KICK-OFF 12.15PM



NEWS



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GREEN ENERGY

THE MATT FINISHER

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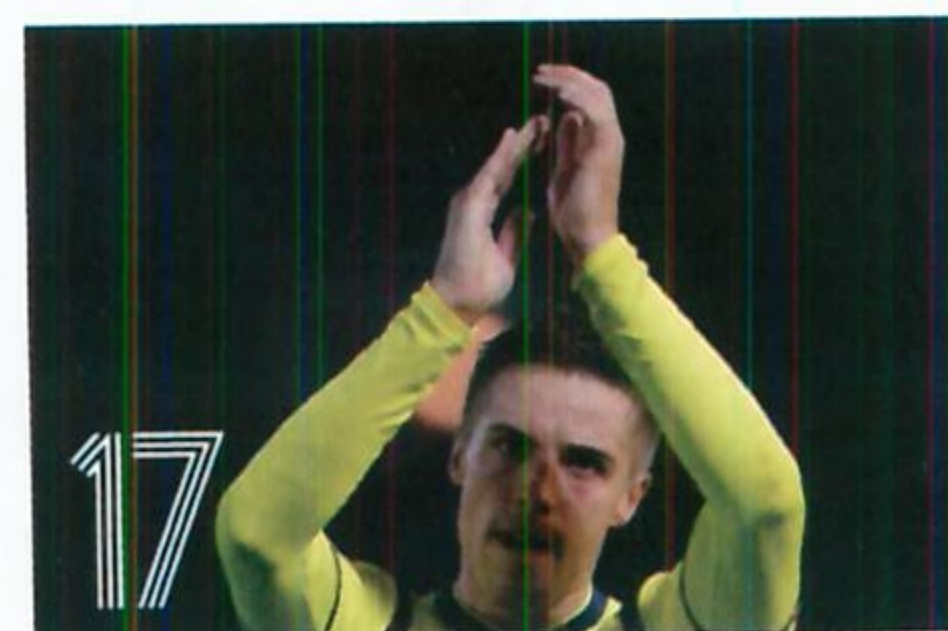
GREEN ENERGY

Striker Matt Green talks exclusively to Blues News about his first St. Andrew's goal, his hopes for the season along with many more topics



LION TAMERS

Looking back on Tuesday's terrific four-goal victory over Millwall



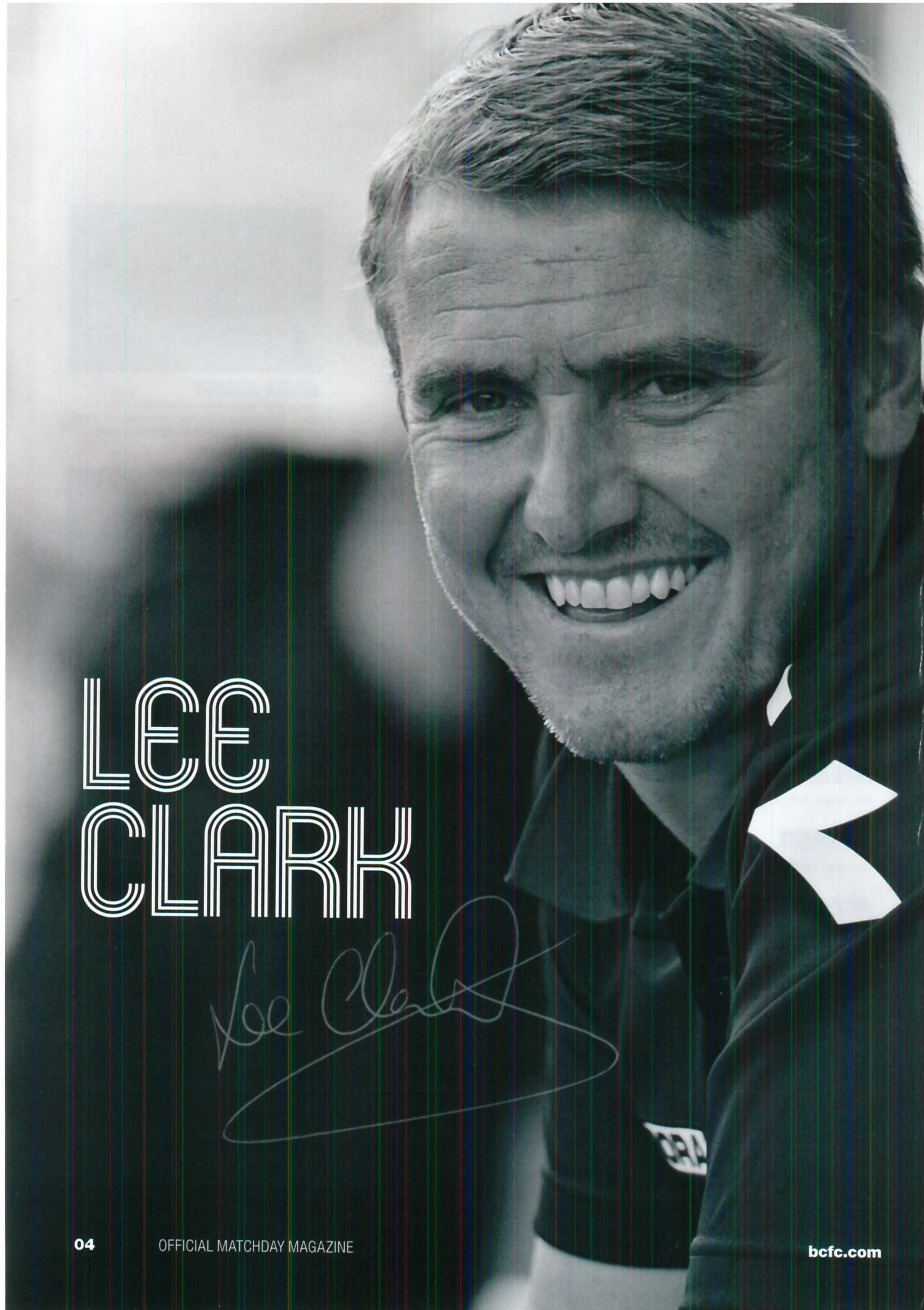
A TO Z WITH MITCH HANCOX

The Blues midfielder tackles a selection of 26 irreverent questions



BLUES HERITAGE

Seventeen pages dedicated to the history of Blues, including interviews with Alan Ainscow and Fred Pickering and a look back at a previous encounter with Bolton from the 1967/68 season when the latter striker made his debut

A close-up, black and white portrait of a man with short, dark hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark polo shirt with a white 'K' logo on the left chest. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd.

LEE CLARK

Lee Clark

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S FOR TODAY'S GAME

I was absolutely delighted with the way we performed against Millwall on Tuesday evening.

I've been desperate for us to deliver performances in front of the home fans and I think in the last three home games we've entertained and scored 11 goals. Other than a short spell in the second-half I felt we dominated Millwall and the margin of the victory could easily have been greater than 4-0.

We came out of the blocks quickly and our pressing was good, with and without the ball. We deservedly took the lead through David Murphy who showed the skill of a striker to finish his first goal. He then hit a world-class free-kick which left the Millwall keeper with no chance and could even have had a hat-trick with another free-kick in the second-half.

Seeing Murph's performance it would be easy to forget that he has just returned from ten months out with a serious knee injury. When you've been sidelined for so long and had all those lonely days in the gym and out on the training pitch with just you and the physio I think it will inevitably make you appreciate the game more. He is really enjoying his football and long may it continue.

As well as scoring four goals, I was really pleased with us at the other end of the pitch and the fact that we kept a clean sheet. If we can keep more clean sheets than not this season, we've got

attackers who can produce a little bit of magic and score us a goal.

Ahead of the Millwall game I elected to change my starting formation from 3-4-3 to 4-2-3-1 and it paid dividends. The reason for tweaking it was to counter the way that Millwall play, but it also allowed me to bring Andy Shinnie back into the starting XI. Over the past few weeks in training he has been terrific and he deserved his opportunity.

With Andy, Chris Burke and Jessie Lingard playing off Matt Green at the front we had four good little footballers who caused Millwall no end of problems. I gave them the freedom to express themselves and they certainly did that. Of course they were helped by Callum Reilly and Tom Adeyemi in the centre of the park, who were brilliant. They competed and did the dirty stuff in terms of breaking up the play, but also the technical stuff as well.



WE'VE GOT ATTACKERS WHO CAN PRODUCE A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC AND SCORE US A GOAL. ”

With the international break coming up next week, we will be looking to maintain our momentum against Bolton. Dougie Freedman's side have struggled so far this season, but they picked up a useful point against Blackpool earlier in the week. I think the position they are in is probably a false one because in Dougie they have a very good manager and some talented players. Football is about confidence and if things don't go your way at the start of the season good players can lose a little bit of belief.

But we have plenty of faith in our own abilities and hopefully we can build on our recent form with another three points this afternoon.



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MATT
GREEN

THE MATT FINISHER

Championship defences beware. Goal machine Matt Green is gradually cranking up the gears as he settles into life in England's second tier.

The 26-year-old has scored twice in his first 11 games for Blues since making the summer switch from Mansfield Town. But the striker's seasons are historically slow burners in terms of making the net ripple – 61 per cent of his 95 career goals in competitive fixtures before this season have come after the turn of the year. He is confident that trend will be maintained as he continues to adapt to the higher level of football.

Green was a prolific scorer in the top tier of non-league football for Mansfield, bagging an impressive 57 goals in all competitions during the last two seasons, helping to fire the Stags into the Football League. It was that impressive strike-rate that persuaded Lee Clark to add the former Cardiff City trainee to his ranks. The Blues boss was recently quoted as saying that he felt that Green was trying too hard to bridge the gap after his leap up three divisions. The forward heeded his manager's advice and allowed his natural instincts to come to the fore. He has subsequently been one of the standout performers in Blues' three-match winning sequence at St. Andrew's.

"The gaffer left me out of the side earlier in the season because I was probably over-thinking things a little bit," admits

the ex-Oxford United man. "Trying hard to please all the coaches and him, sometimes when you do that it can take the focus off the things

that you're good at. My strengths are obviously my pace and movement and getting down the sides. If I can make the back four drop onto the edge of their box, it creates a lot more space for our midfielders who are very good on the ball and can pass and expose teams. The gaffer just said 'play to your strengths, that's what we brought you here for. We believe in you'. I took his comments on board and it's probably benefiting me and the team. If I can repay him for his faith in me over the duration of the season I'll be happy."

He adds: "You definitely get less chances and space in the Championship compared to the Conference. Defenders are a lot more athletic and stronger. But

“

FROM WHAT I'VE NOTICED, THE MAJORITY OF MY GOALS COME IN THE LATTER PART OF THE SEASON AFTER JANUARY. ”

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

GREEN HAS REPRESENTED ENGLAND AT BOTH SCHOOLBOY AND C LEVEL – THE LATTER BEING THE REPRESENTATIVE SIDE SELECTED FROM PLAYERS THROUGHOUT THE NON-LEAGUE PYRAMID.

"From what I've noticed the majority of my goals come in the latter part of the season after January. But as a striker you never want to miss chances, you want to score goals and you'll take them any way they come. I don't really have any specific goals, I just want to score them," Green laughs.

"Obviously I want the team to win and personally to score as many goals as I can, as that breeds confidence," he continues. "Twenty is a good landmark for any striker and that would represent a very successful season. If I ended up with that I'd be ecstatic. But if I didn't and finished with double figures or near double figures, it wouldn't be bad and I'd look to build on it next season."



GREEN ENERGY

I still feel I can score a lot of goals at this level. It's still quite early on in the season. I'm the sort of player that if I score in a few games I usually keep scoring. If I find a bit of form I can usually capitalise on that. My first season at this level was always going to be tough but everybody has made me feel very welcome and I feel that I've settled in very quickly."

Blues' resurgent home form kicked off with a 4-1 demolition of struggling Sheffield Wednesday. New loanee Jesse Lingard stole the headlines by scoring all the goals and Green says he's enjoyed linking up with the Manchester United

starlet. "Jesse is obviously a great talent," says the industrious front-man. "He can change direction well and when he gets into those little pockets he can expose players. He's full of confidence and has been a breath of fresh air. I really enjoyed that game myself. There was a lot riding on it because they were down there towards the bottom of the table and we hadn't been in great form. We knew we needed to win it and I just did everything I could running around with Jesse, who produced four great finishes. I would have loved to have got on the score-sheet but that happened for me against Swansea."



DID YOU KNOW?

**GREEN WAS THE LEADING
SCORER IN THE CONFERENCE
LAST SEASON AND THE SECOND
HIGHEST MARKSMAN IN
NON-LEAGUE'S TOP TIER
IN 2011/12.**

25

**MATT
GREEN**



Green bagged his first St. Andrew's goal as Blues produced the shock of the Capital One Cup third round by knocking out the buoyant Swans to seal a place in the last 16 of the competition. Looking back on the 3-1 win, the striker says: "That was a great team performance. Swansea are a Premier League team and the cup holders. We weren't expected to get a result but everybody raised their game and I think it was a comfortable victory in the end, just from hard work. We rode our luck in the first-half when they hit the bar twice but we capitalised on our chances and made the most of them after the break."

The Bath-born hot-shot acknowledges that it's taken longer than everyone would have hoped for



THE GAFFER JUST SAID 'PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS, THAT'S WHAT WE BROUGHT YOU HERE FOR'. "

Blues to find their rhythm and collective scoring boots this season. But 11 goals in the last three home matches hint at better times ahead. "There are a lot of new players and it has taken time to learn about our strengths and weaknesses. You are always finding out new things about each other. We've just got to do whatever it takes to ensure we keep getting the results. The thing is that we've got a tight group and everybody seems to be sticking together. We all want success. We were unlucky with the odd 1-0. We've hit the bar, the posts, had penalty shouts turned down and offsides that weren't offside. So many things.

"It's so frustrating because we work really hard on the training pitch and

for little things like that to make the difference, you think when is it going to change? Hopefully it will over the course of the season, but in the meantime it's just a case of being patient and sticking with it. QPR have ground out a lot of 1-0s. They're not playing great but it just seems like they're on the other side of it at the moment."

Blues' fortunes have improved significantly in the last fortnight with Green as the pivot of a three or four-pronged attack. He reveals: "I've played that role for the last two seasons at Mansfield and I enjoy it. You are out there on your own at times and you are having to compete with the centre-halves a little bit but when you're on the break, or attack, and you've got the two wingers you create havoc at times. We've got a lot of good strikers at the club with Lee Novak, Nikola Zigic and Andy Shinnie, so I'm sure we might change our formation a little bit, but right now I'm enjoying being in the team."

Standing in the way of Blues' efforts to make it four wins on the bounce in front of the home faithful today are Bolton, who are yet to record a victory this season. Green believes the Trotters are in a false position in the table and is predicting a tough test. He says: "They've got some big names there, the likes of David Ngog and Jermaine Beckford. They shouldn't be down there and I don't think there is any chance of them getting relegated. But we are capable of beating anyone in this league and a victory would stand us in good stead going into the international break."

BY PETER LEWIS



Sky Bet Championship
TUESDAY OCTOBER 1

BLUES TAME THE THE LIONS

Lee Clark's men put in their finest performance of the season to sweep aside Millwall on Tuesday night at St. Andrew's.

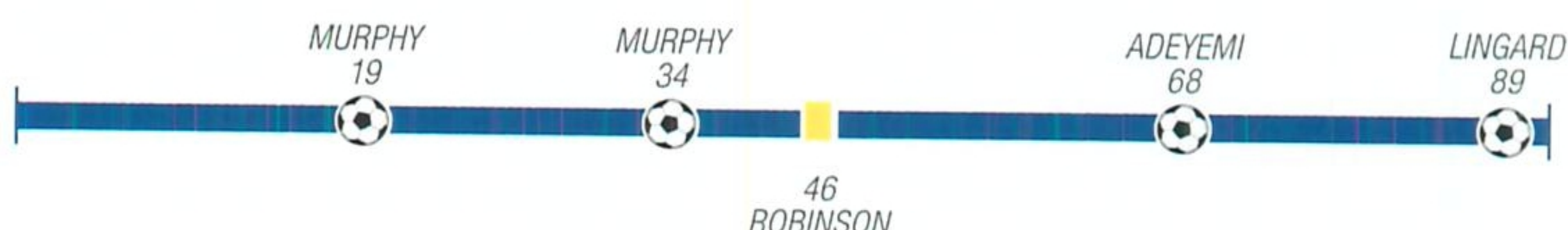
The Lions arrived in the second city on the back of three successive wins but they were put to the sword by a rampant Blues side. David Murphy started the rout with two first-half strikes, including a pinpoint free-kick. The impressive Tom Adeyemi made it 3-0 with a neat finish and then Jessie Lingard capped off a fine evening with a fourth headed goal with just a minute of normal time remaining. Ahead of the fixture boss Lee Clark elected to change his formation to an unusual 4-2-3-1 formation and it certainly paid dividends as Millwall struggled to cope with Blues' attacking threat. Nine strikes on target compared to Millwall's one told the story of the game and it wouldn't have been unfair if the margin of the victory was greater than the final scoreline.



BLUES

4-0

MILLWALL



LINE-UP

Blues: Randolph, Spector, Burn, Robinson, Murphy (Bartley 79), Adeyemi, Reilly, Burke, Lingard (Gray 90+1), Shinnie, Green (Zigic 70).

LINE-UP

Millwall: Forde, Dunne, Robinson, Shittu, Malone, Abdou, Trotter, Bailey (Chaplow 63), Waghorn (Easter 76), Morison (Martin 46), Woolford.



MAN OF THE MATCH

DAVID MURPHY

Lee Clark has often stated that he thinks David Murphy is the best left-back outside the Premier League and after a stunning performance against the Lions it's easy to see why he holds that view.

Just three games back from a long-term knee injury, Murphy showed his class throughout the game and scored two excellent first-half goals. The first was taken with aplomb as he collected the ball at the far post and drilled it low past Lions goalkeeper David Forde. The second was a peach of a free-kick from some 20 yards out that flew into the top corner. The full-back came close to netting a hat-trick later in the game when another goal-bound free-kick was expertly saved by Forde.



As voted for by visitors to the Blues Wall on bcfc.com.

The EZE Group Foundation That's what we call teamwork



At EZE Group we are committed to ensuring that our support for Birmingham City FC reaches out to those in need within the community. Since partnering with the club two seasons ago we have worked with the fans to raise thousands of pounds for local charities including Help Harry Help Others, Edward's Trust and MacMillan Cancer Support. Elsewhere the EZE Group Foundation has provided financial backing to Cure Leukaemia, Help for Heroes and the Motor Neurone Disease Association, not to mention a host of other community based organisations.

This season, as Diamond sponsors of the Blues, we will be continuing to reach out to fans through our EZE Wishes campaign which recognises and rewards those deserving supporters who have overcome adversity, helped out in the community or shown outstanding support for the team over the years.

To nominate someone for a special EZE Wish all you have to do is email ezewishes@bcfc.com. As an added bonus, fans also have an opportunity to win money can't buy experiences through the club, simply by visiting and liking EZE Group's "Facebook" page. Every month, those that like the page, will be entered into a free draw for some VIP treatment.

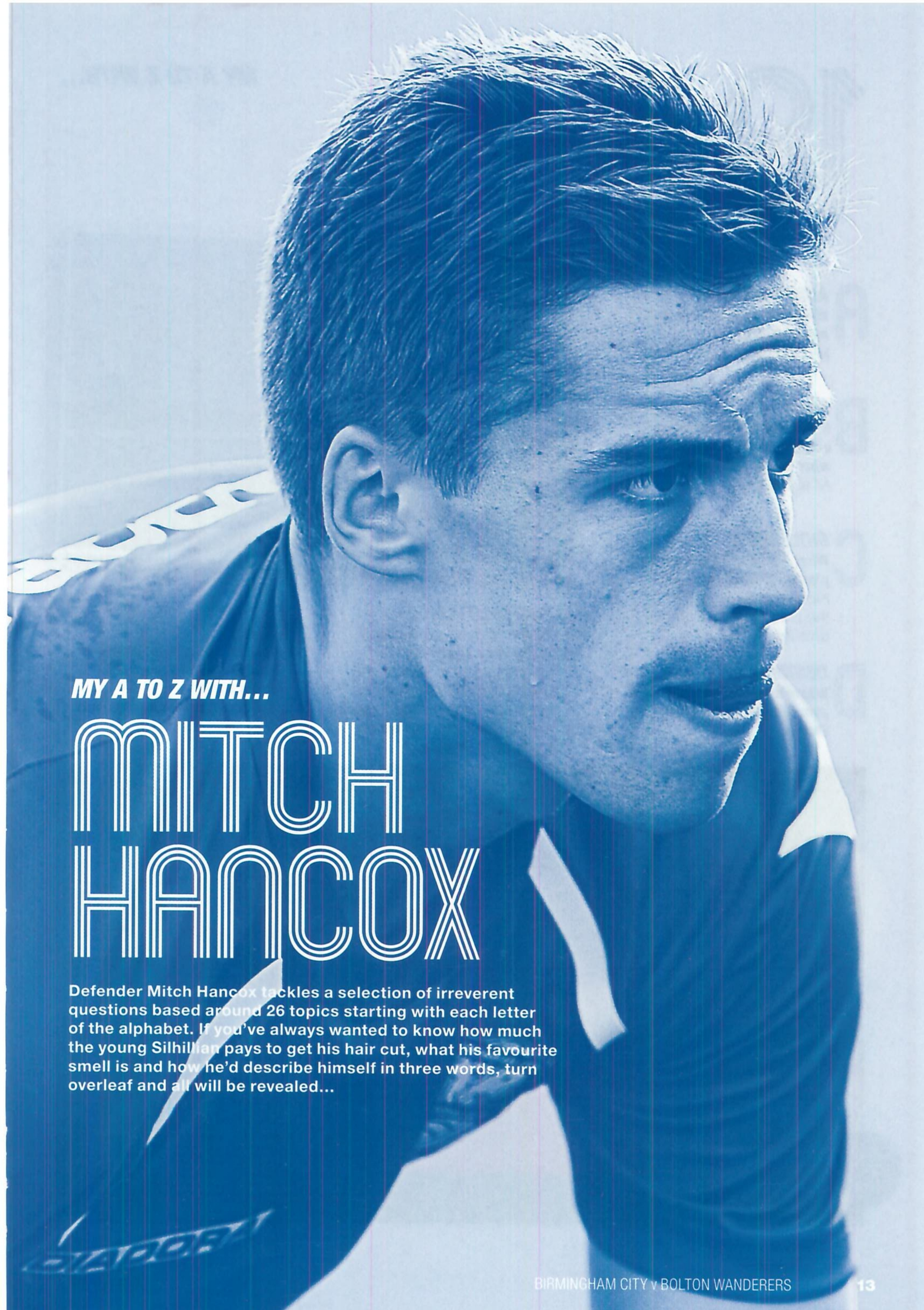
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MY A TO Z WITH...

MITCH HANCOX

Defender Mitch Hancox tackles a selection of irreverent questions based around 26 topics starting with each letter of the alphabet. If you've always wanted to know how much the young Silhillian pays to get his hair cut, what his favourite smell is and how he'd describe himself in three words, turn overleaf and all will be revealed...

A ADMIRATION

Which living person do you most admire?

My grandad.

B BOOK

If you were to bring out an autobiography tomorrow, what would you call it?

All about me.

C CHILDHOOD

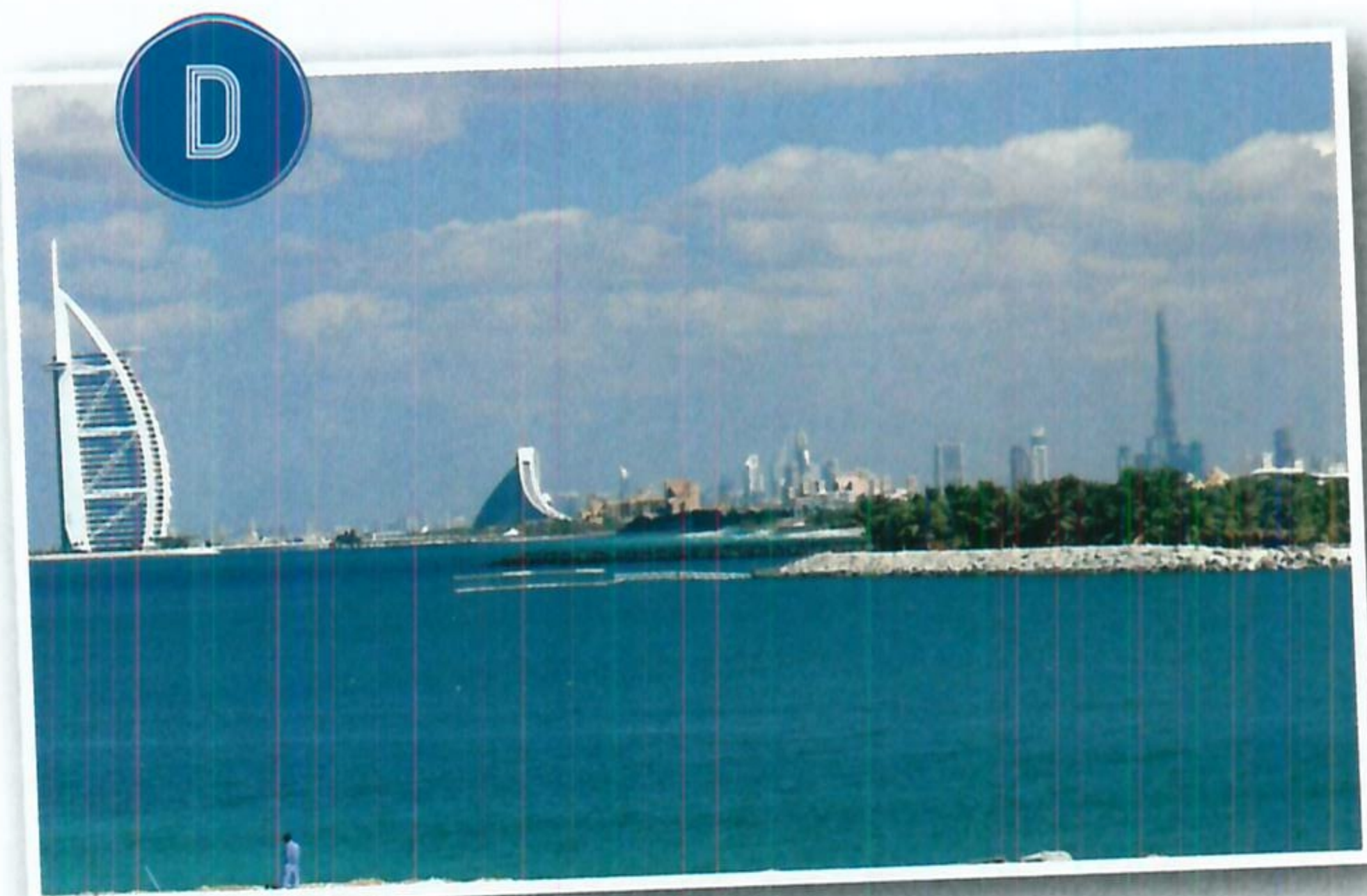
What was your first memory of playing football as a kid?

Kicking a ball about in the back garden with my brothers.

D DESTINATION

Where's the best place you've ever been to on holiday?

Dubai.



E EAR-SPLITTING

What's the best atmosphere that you've played in?

I didn't play but I was on the bench when Blues faced Nacional in the Europa League and the Blues fans were on top form that night.

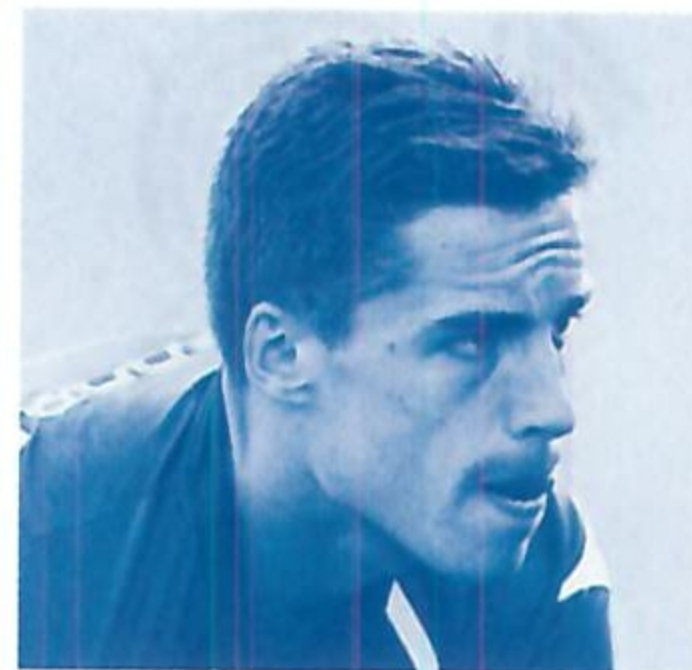
F FUNNY

Who is the funniest player you've shared a dressing room with?

It's got to be Paul Robinson.



MITCH HANCOX



GAG

What is your favourite joke?

Pulling my teeth out and making people cringe!

HAIRCUT

How much do you normally pay to have your hair cut?

About £12.

INFLUENCE

Who or what made you want to be a footballer?

Mainly my brothers and my dad.

JOKER

Who is the biggest practical joker in the current squad and can you reveal any of their particular antics?

Probably Robbo again, but I'll keep that quiet!

KEEP

Are you now or have you ever been a collector of anything?

No, I've never really collected anything.

LOTTERY

If you won £100m on the Euromillions, would you carry on playing football for a living?

Yes, definitely!

MOANER

Which member of the squad is the biggest moaner?

There are a few but I'll keep mute on that.

NERVES

When was the last time you were nervous?

For my debut against Hull away when we lost 5-2. That was probably the last time I was nervous.

OPPOSITION

Which is the opposing team that you secretly want to beat the most?

Aston Villa, but there's no secret about that!



P PRIDE
What is your proudest moment?
Making my professional debut against Huddersfield.

Q QUIRKY
What is the strangest thing you've been asked to sign?
I was asked to sign somebody's goalie gloves.

R REGRET
What is your greatest regret?
I don't have any regrets from my life and career so far.

S SECRET
Can you tell us something we might not know about you?
I've got about six scars on my head.

T TROLLEY
Do you ever do the supermarket shopping?
No, you won't catch me pushing a trolley around!

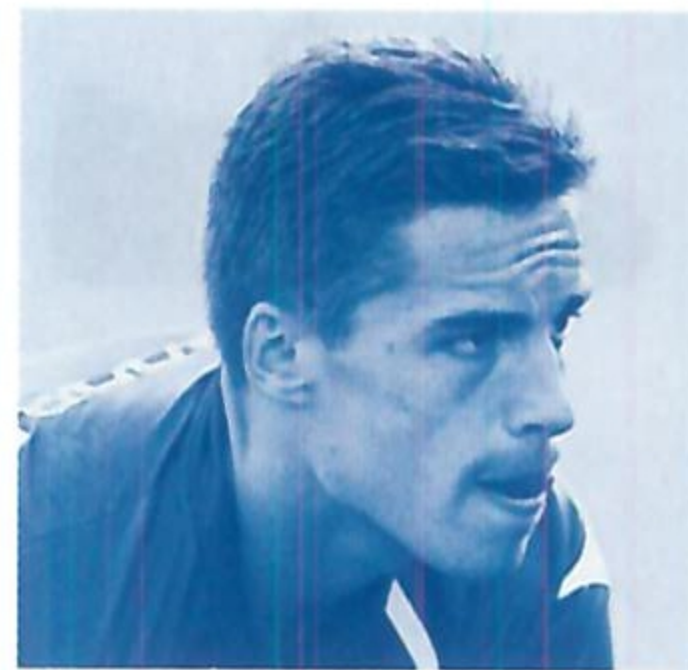
U UNBELIEVABLE
What's the craziest rumour you've ever heard about yourself?
Sorry, I can't think of one.

V VISITORS
Do you have a favourite away ground that you like to play at?
I've played at Bristol City's Ashton Gate quite a few times and I think that's a nice ground.

W WHIFF
What is your favourite smell?
Bleu de Chanel.



MITCH HANCOX



X EXCHANGE

If you could change places with someone from another sport for a day, who would it be?

Usain Bolt.

Y YOU

Describe yourself in three words?

Never give up.

Z ZOO

If you went for a trip to the Zoo, which animal enclosure would you be keen to visit first?

I'd head for the penguins!





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TOM ROSS



Being a Bluenose should mean your season or match ticket carries a government health warning along the following lines: 'supporting this team can seriously damage your emotional and mental health!'

My dad told me as a youngster that Blues would break your heart and that you would shed more tears over them than you ever would over any woman. How right was he? The older ones will remember Blues as a club that was always up and down, a semi-final team, always the bridesmaid and never the bride.

The Ken Weldon and Kumar eras were in the main sad and desperate times for this proud and great club. The early 1990s arrival of the Gold brothers and David Sullivan gave the fans another ray of hope that sunshine really was just around the corner. That era saw a trio of consecutive Championship play-off semi-final failures as Blues battled to get into the big time of the Premier League. Defeats by Barnsley, Watford and Preston all left fans emotionally drained and definitely tested their love and commitment to the limit.

A League Cup Final at the Millennium Stadium against Liverpool ended in heartbreak and tears with referee David Elleray contributing to another emotional day of 'what ifs' for us Bluenoses. Eventually Steve Bruce guided Blues back into the Premier League and every single Blues fan thought: this is it, we are on the way to establishing ourselves with the best.

A change of manager saw Alex McLeish take over with new ownership just around the corner, with Carson Yeung buying the club from David Gold and David Sullivan. From the outside it looked as if the club just cruised along from crisis to crisis with more ups and downs than a yo-yo.

The emotional rollercoaster ride was again set to take us to the dizzy heights of the highest ever Premier League finish and a never-to-be-forgotten Carling Cup win over Arsenal. I defy any Blues fans to argue that they didn't think that the rebirth of the Blues was finally underway and that we would now be competing towards the top end of the Premier League. However another kick in the you-know-whats was waiting just around the corner. This time it was the grim spectre of relegation. Then we had the well-documented legal problems Carson Yeung faced in China, which subsequently resulted in Blues having serious financial problems, and the unavoidable sale of most of the better players to keep the club going.

When we talk about fan loyalty and who is the best in the country then look no further than those who turn up week in and week out to support this great club here at St. Andrew's. Blues' battle anthem talks about a long, hard road and being tired and weary – never has any club's fans had a more apt song because Bluenoses journey on despite whatever is thrown at them. If anyone writes the history of Blues they should spend a lot of time on the fans whose resilience and loyalty, combined with a love of the club, deserves better.

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LET'S DANTS

BY PETER LEWIS

BLUES NEWS CHATS TO TALKSPORT'S RESIDENT BLUENOSE IAN DANTER ABOUT HIS NEW SOLO ROCK ALBUM, HIS JOB ON NATIONAL RADIO AND, OF COURSE, ALL THINGS BLUES...

Younger Blues fans may not be aware of the origins of the "Who?" chant that reverberates around the ground for every away team substitution. It actually dates back to the 1998/99 season and the man who played a key part in its creation was award-winning TalkSPORT presenter and commentator Ian Danter.

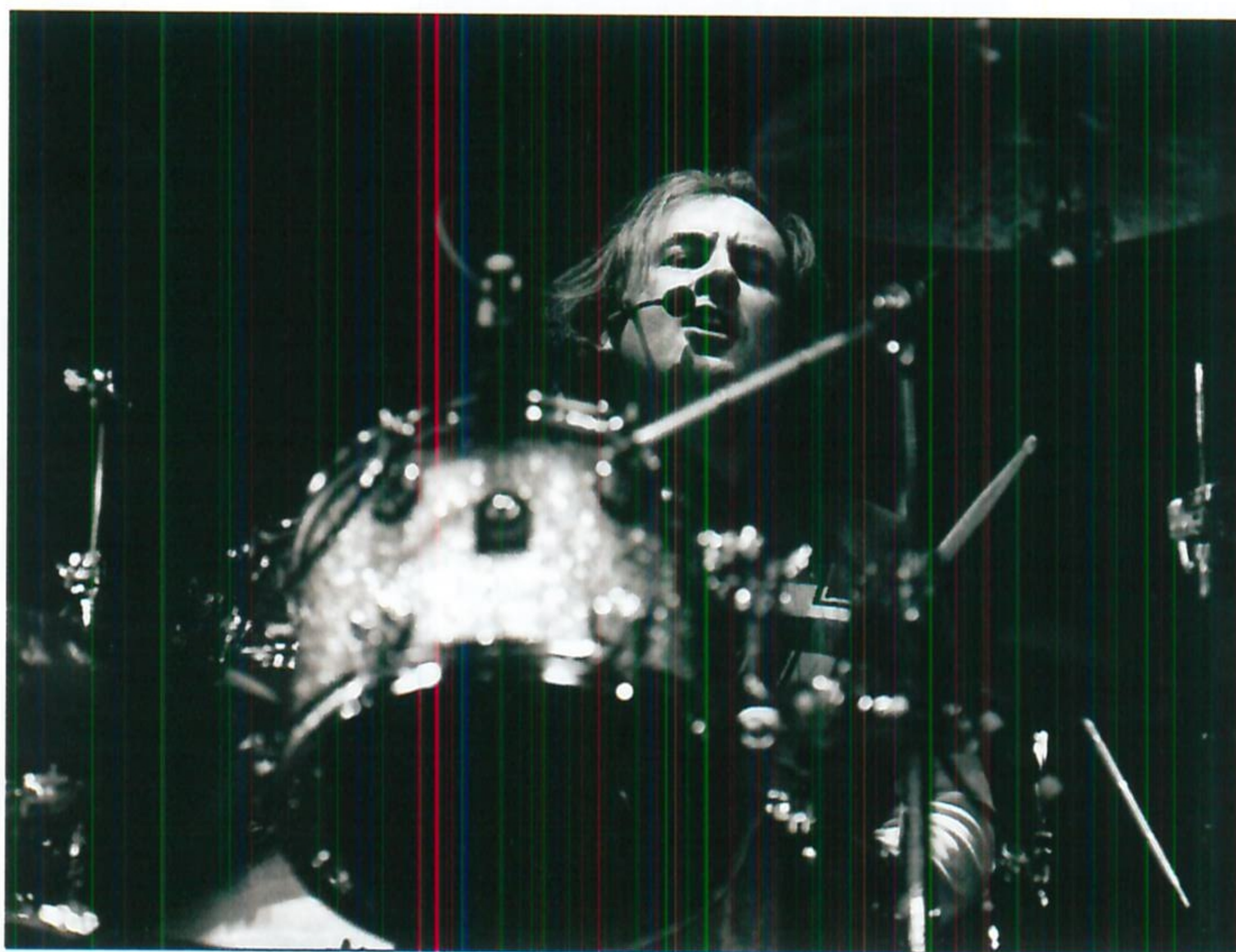
Dants, as he is nicknamed, can now be heard by millions over the airwaves but one of his first experiences behind a microphone came here at St. Andrew's. His role as PA announcer during the late 1990s coincided with him taking his first steps into radio broadcasting as the Flying Eye travel reporter at

BRMB, as the local Birmingham station was then known. Within two short years he'd become BRMB's Drivetime presenter, entertaining listeners with his bubbly demeanour, clever telephone pranks and notoriously-good celebrity impressions. Then, in 2004, the call came from TalkSPORT – a dream post for a football-nut like Ian.

He'd made rapid progression in his career and secured a top job that allowed him to indulge in one of his greatest interests. However, there was a personal ambition that remained unfulfilled. As much as he lives and breathes football, with a particular inclination towards Blues of course, Dants' overriding passion is his music.

He has been heavily involved in the local music scene for the last three decades, figuring in numerous tribute bands as a drummer and guitarist. The premature passing of a fellow musician was the catalyst for Ian to record his own album 'Prove You Wrong' earlier this year, with the launch party held, naturally, here at St. Andrew's.

Blues News caught up with Dants recently to find out more about this "labour of love". He tells us: "It was something I often thought about doing subconsciously for a long time because I've been a songwriter since my teens. But the opportunity presented itself after a little bit of a tragedy occurred when a friend of mine, Steve Harris, who played guitar with Brummie rock band Shy, contracted a brain tumour. But he managed to complete an album with Shy, which came out a couple of years ago before his condition really deteriorated. When he passed away I was at his funeral and got chatting to a producer friend of mine, just talking about how brilliant it was that Steve had managed to get



Dants in musical action behind his drum kit.



Dants pictured during his days as the BRMB Flying Eye travel reporter.

the album done not knowing whether he was going to survive. This producer then said 'you've got a load of songs, haven't you? You should think about recording them'. I decided the time was right – this is February of last year. I booked some studio sessions and took whatever time I could out of my work schedule. I did pretty much the whole album myself, musically and vocally. I got a friend, Lee Small, who was also a member of Shy, to do most of the lead vocals but I did my fair share as well, as well as a load of backing vocals. When you listen to the album, 95 per cent of it is my handiwork, whether from an instrument point of view or voice."

'Prove You Wrong', a 15-track album of harmonious rock tracks, was released in March and has received a good reaction from people within the music industry. "I'm extremely proud of it," says Dants, who admits that this project has reinvigorated his song-writing penchant – he is currently working on four more

tracks which will be added to his iTunes catalogue later this year. "It's great when you get people like Glenn Hughes, who used to be the bassist in Deep Purple, sending you a tweet and saying you've done a really good job. When somebody who has been a huge influence on you likes your work, well that's manor from heaven."



IT'S GREAT WHEN YOU GET PEOPLE LIKE GLENN HUGHES, WHO USED TO BE THE BASSIST IN DEEP PURPLE, SENDING YOU A TWEET AND SAYING YOU'VE DONE A REALLY GOOD JOB. ”

Whilst this may be the first solo album that Dants has produced, it is by no means his first experience of a recording studio. Over the last decade he has collaborated with local radio personality Tom Ross on numerous Blues-related tracks, notably 'Singing the Blues', which can still be heard at St. Andrew's on matchdays. "I get a huge swell of



Dants' luck came in when he won the Bluenose matchday lottery at a pre-season game against Liverpool in July 1995. Here he is receiving his presentation cheque (although his first name was incorrectly written!) at the next home game against Celtic from then coach Lil Fuccillo.

pride when I hear that being played over the tannoy – a song that connects me to a club that I love so much,” he admits.

Rewinding 15 years to the days when Dants' dulcet tones could be regularly heard over the St. Andrew's tannoy, he reveals that an up-front approach helped him secure that particular gig. Towards the end of the 1997/98 season he contacted the club's then promotions manager, the legendary Bob Matthews, to offer his services on a purely voluntary basis to help pep up the pre-match and half-time entertainment. He didn't want payment. He just wanted to do his bit for the club that he'd supported for 25 years. “I was a bit bolshie,” laughs Dants. “I didn't want to be paid. It was just an honour to be there and work with Bob, who was an absolute delight and such a great guy, and be one small part of the club. My dad was just so proud and my grandad would have been even more so, had he been around to see it. My grandad's brother used to sweep the terraces at St. Andrew's way back in the day, so that connection of having another Danter working at the club would have meant an awful lot to my grandad.”

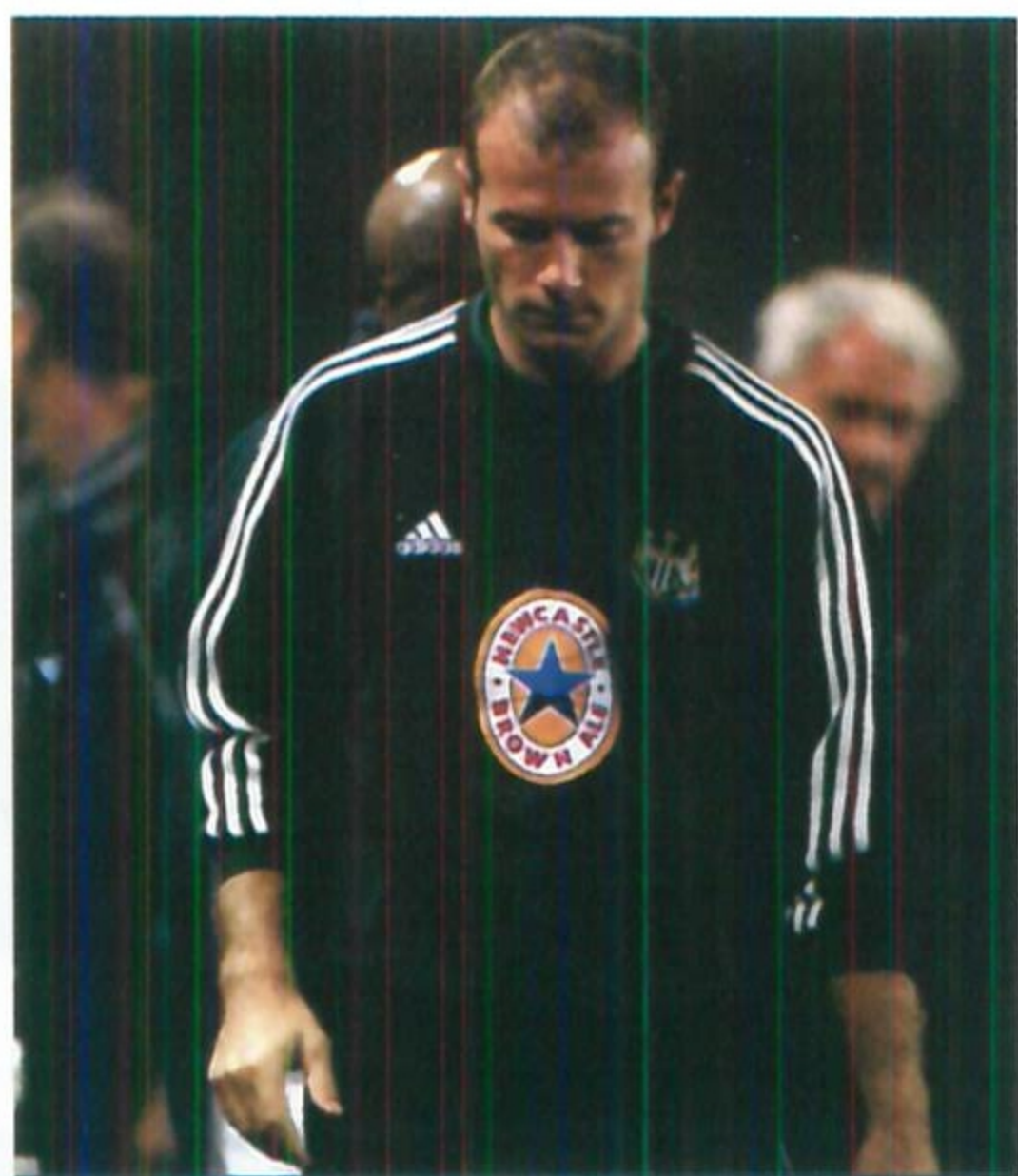
It was his father and grandfather that accompanied Dants to his first Blues game in December 1974 – a 3-0 defeat to Stoke, but the result did little to

discourage him from following family tradition and making Birmingham City his team. He recalls: “Jimmy Greenhoff, who had not long left us, scored twice and we got cuffed, but I just remember falling in love that day with the smells of Bovril and the stale cigarette smoke that hung in the air. I was sat in the Main Stand for that first game but before too long, when Dad felt I was a little bit older and wiser, we started standing on the Tilton/Kop corner. My grandad made me a little white stool I could stand on and lean against one of the crush barriers so that I could watch the game and see everything. If you tried to persuade a turnstile operator to let you through with a stool nowadays it just wouldn't happen!”

He continues: “There are so many great memories; the Latchford/Francis/Hatton side – although they are probably only fleeting memories. Into my teens and the team bought with the Francis money – Worthington, Langan, Todd, Gemmill, Ainscow and Curbishley. Ironically that team would have been brilliant with Francis in it. I felt really sorry for Neil Whatmore because we spent quite a lot of money on him from Bolton but it just didn't quite work out. I do remember a goal from his strike-partner Frank Worthington, it was a volley which he brought down on his thigh and cracked in from 25 yards. I think it may have been

against Bolton. He was a genius. That's the team I have a lot of fondness for. Then the emergence of the Birmingham Six – Robert Hopkins, Pat Van Den Hauwe, Tony Coton, Noel Blake, Mark Dennis and Howard Gayle and that side. And I think all of us of a certain age have a certain fondness for the team that got promoted from League One, as it is now, under Barry in 94/95 when we had something like 48 professionals on the books. Dave Regis played one week, Miguel De Souza the next. You had Peter Shearer, Harry Willis, Steve Claridge, of course, Liam Daish – captain fantastic – and Jonathan Hunt worth 20 million quid! We hated being in that division but suddenly it was fun to be a Blues fan again. I think Barry and those players deserve an awful lot of credit for how good they made us feel. That was a fun time to be a Blues fan.”

There haven't been quite so many smiles on the faces of the St. Andrew's faithful in recent months but Dants feels that perspective is required at times like this. He says: “Unfortunately what you've got now is a younger generation of fans who have watched a lot of years in the Premier League and they feel, rightly or wrongly, that's where we belong and anything less is worthy of scorn and ridicule. But I'm too long in the tooth to think we deserve our place in the Premier League – you get there on merit and if you are not good enough you go down. Hopefully those fans who do take to



Alan Shearer heads for the dressing room at the end of the League Cup tie at St. Andrew's in which he'd been substituted to the great delight of the inquisitive Blues fans.

Twitter and go about things in entirely the wrong way can step back for a moment and look back at the history and the heritage of the club, where it's been and where it's come from. It hasn't all been top-flight football. In my lifetime we've never gone up as champions from the second tier. We were just the ones that joined the party by hook or by crook. That promotes realism within me as a supporter and I would hope that's the case for other Bluenoses."

Dants' career commitments mean that he's not able to get down to St. Andrew's as much as he would like, although he will be in the press box today covering the game for TalkSPORT. He admits that it's sometimes difficult to keep his emotions in check when talking about and reporting on his boyhood heroes. "It's horrible," he says. "I remember when I was doing a Sunday afternoon programme during the Villa-Blues derby when we lost 5-1. The producer was telling our reporter Nigel Pearson to really egg up the fact that Blues were getting walloped. And off the back of each report, as Villa started scoring more and more, they played the Victorian Death March before they switched my microphone back on. I had Ray Houghton – an ex-Villa player – next to me in the studio teasing me at every turn and I just had to sit there and take it. But for all the bad stuff, it's completely outweighed by the 27th of February 2011 when I was inside Wembley to watch us win. I was part of the commentary team



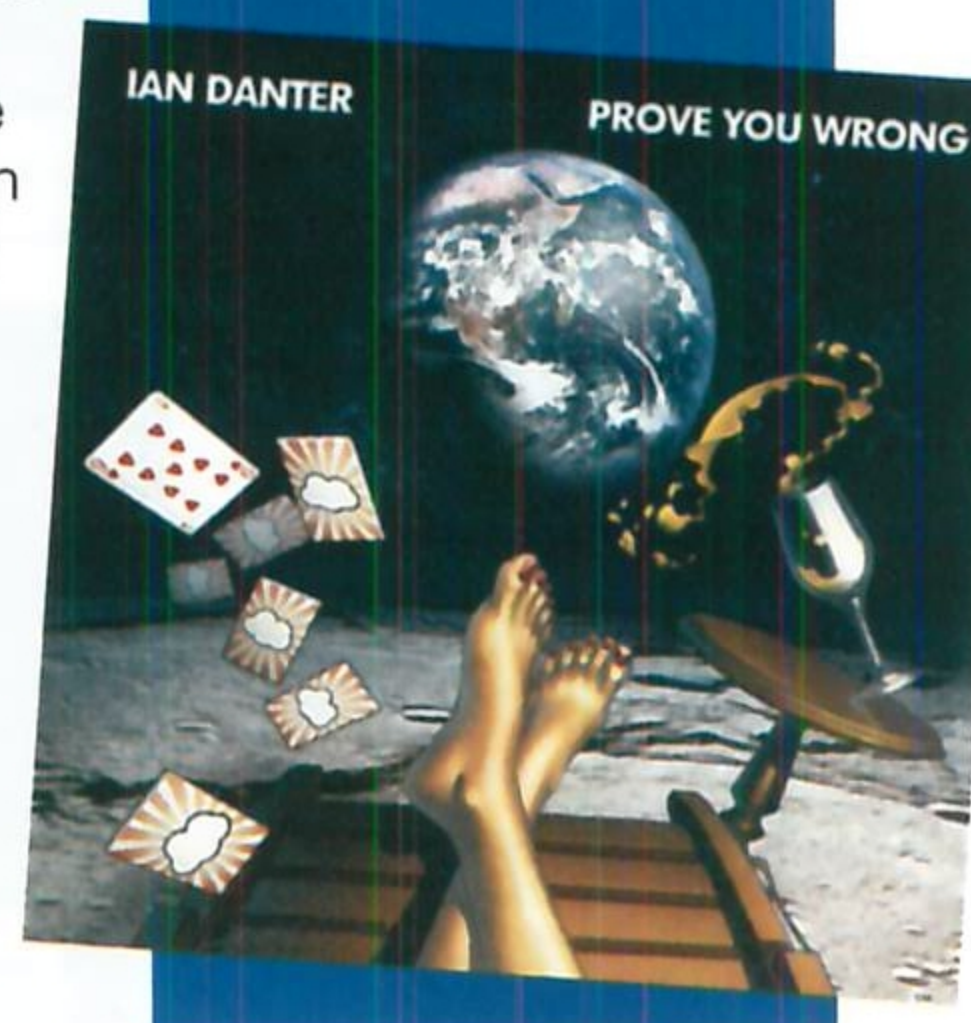
IT WAS BRILLIANT TAKING CALLS FROM BLUES FANS IN DISBELIEF HEADING BACK UP THE M1 AND M40, INCREDULOUS AT WHAT THEY'D JUST WITNESSED. ”

and I was on air at seven o'clock to do a phone-in back at TalkSPORT Towers, so literally I saw the trophy lifted aloft and then I had a courier bike take me back to the studio. We took calls through to nine o'clock – it was absolutely joyous. I will never forget that phone-in. Ray Houghton was quite conciliatory and said we deserved to win it. It was brilliant taking calls from Blues fans in disbelief heading back up the M1 and M40, incredulous at what they'd just witnessed. It was emotional – and tearful at times – but that made it all worthwhile. It was just an incredible day."

Finally, returning to where we began and the now infamous "Who?" chant. Dants admits that whilst his decision to leave a pause when announcing substitutions to allow fans the chance to applaud the off-coming player, as well as the one being introduced, was a contributory factor, it was the St. Andrew's faithful that have to take most of the credit for this hilarious addition to a home matchday. He says: "I was only thinking initially from a Blues perspective, but just because of habit I started doing that for the opposition substitutions as well, not realising that the brilliant Blues fans with their extraordinary sense of humour would pick up on this and start going 'Who?' Of course it built up over time and within a few weeks it suddenly became part of the folklore. I do remember one night in particular when we beat Newcastle United in the League Cup at St. Andrew's and Alan Shearer was substituted towards the end of the game. I remember switching the mic on and saying 'Substitution for Newcastle United' and around the ground people were going 'shhh, shhh' as I announced: 'Replacing number nine... Alan Shearer' which was followed by the loudest 'WHOOOO?' ever. That was the greatest moment that Blues fans had waited for where it all meant so much. I hadn't invented it, they had. I'd just played up to it and made it easier for them."

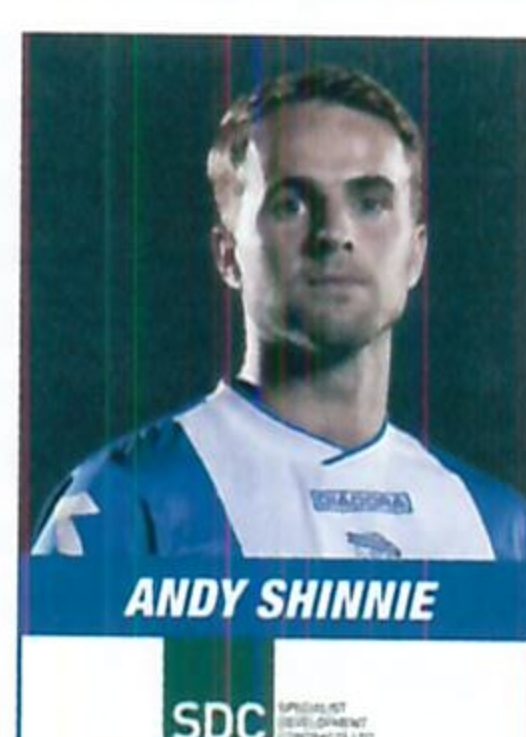
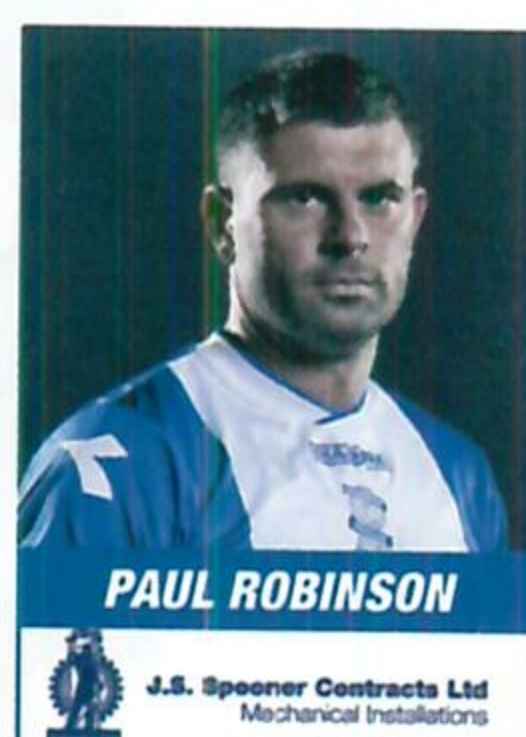
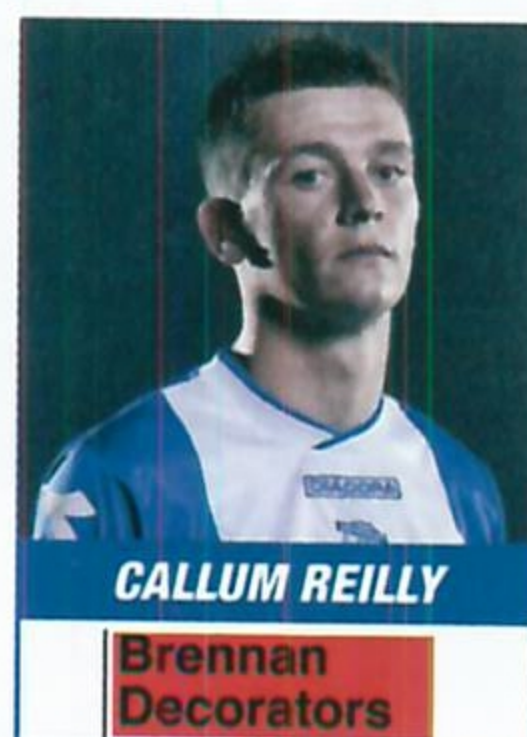
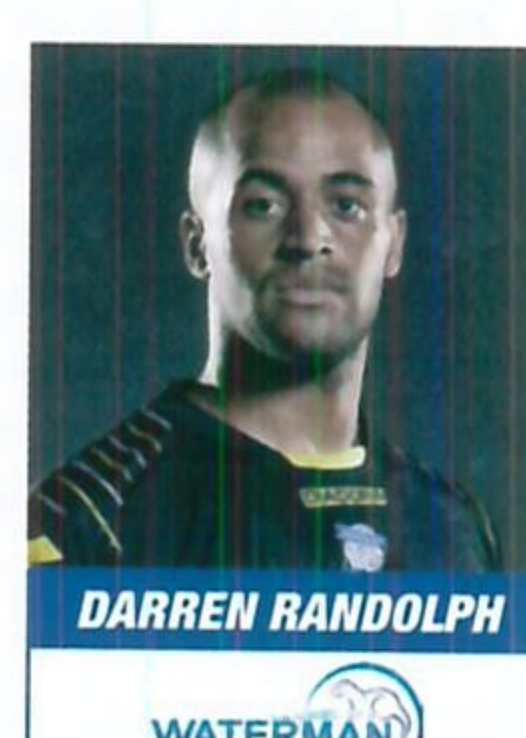
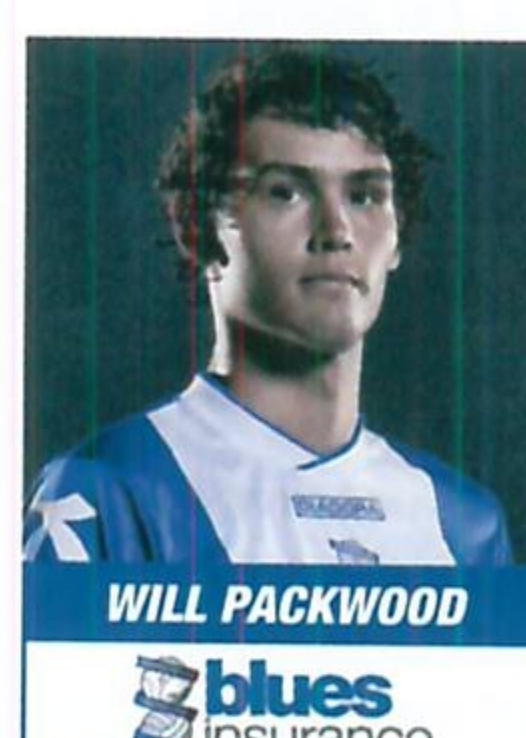
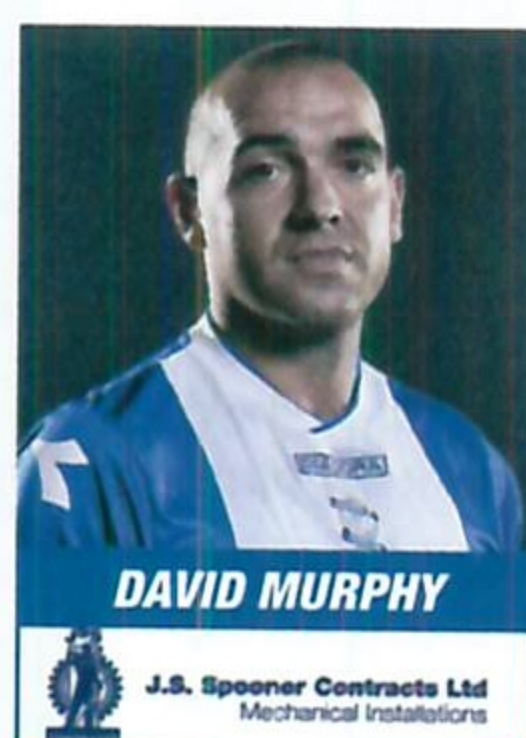
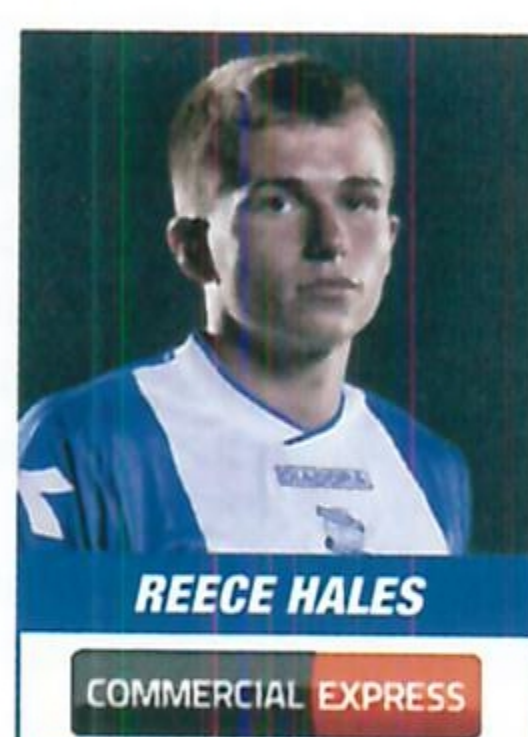
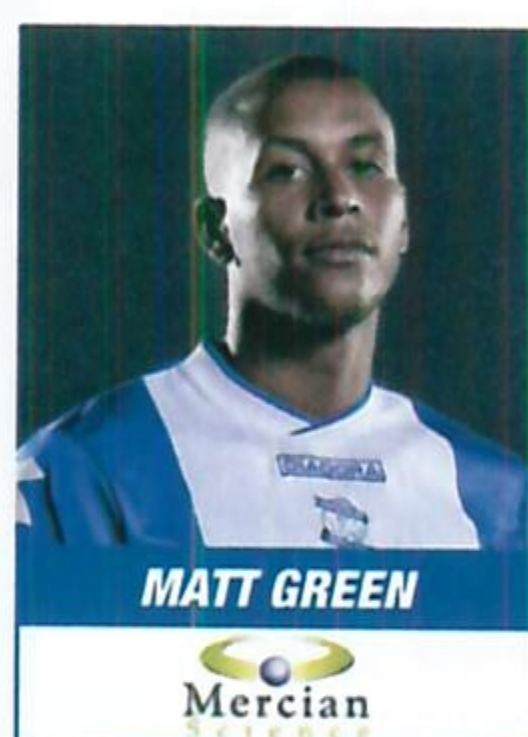
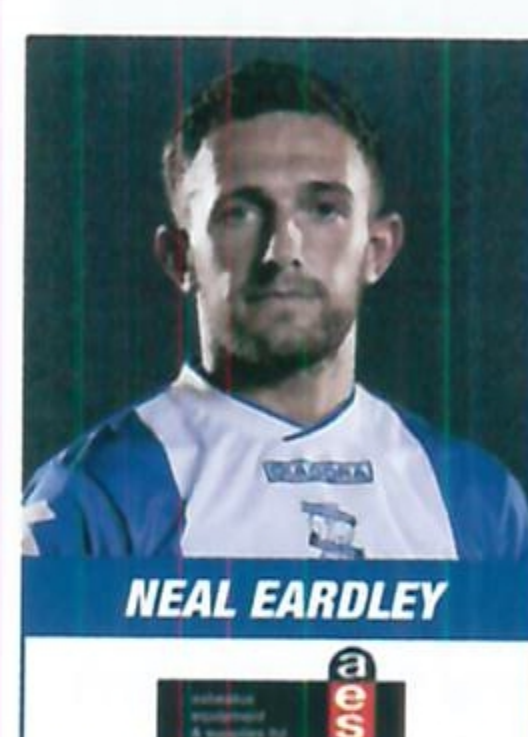
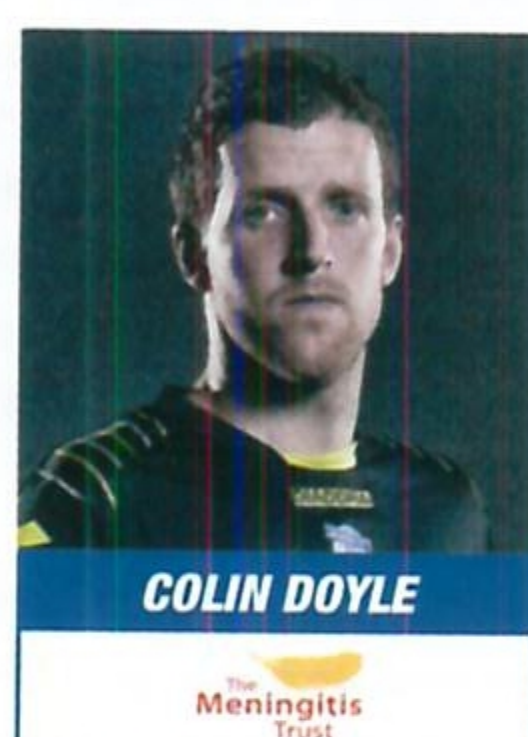
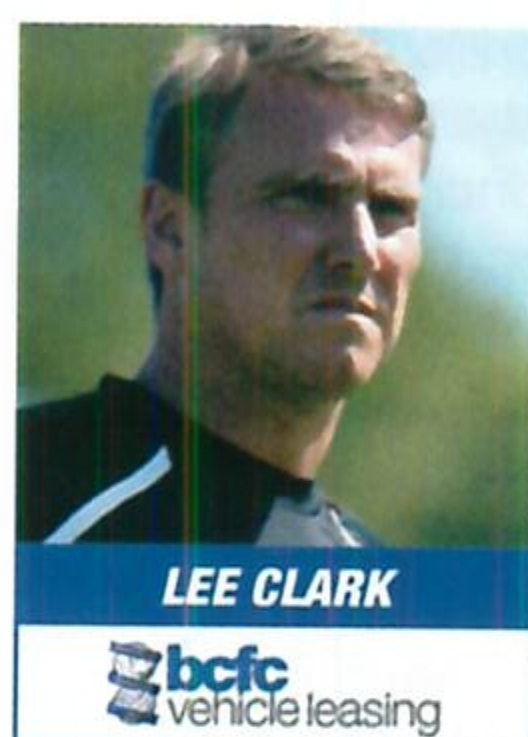
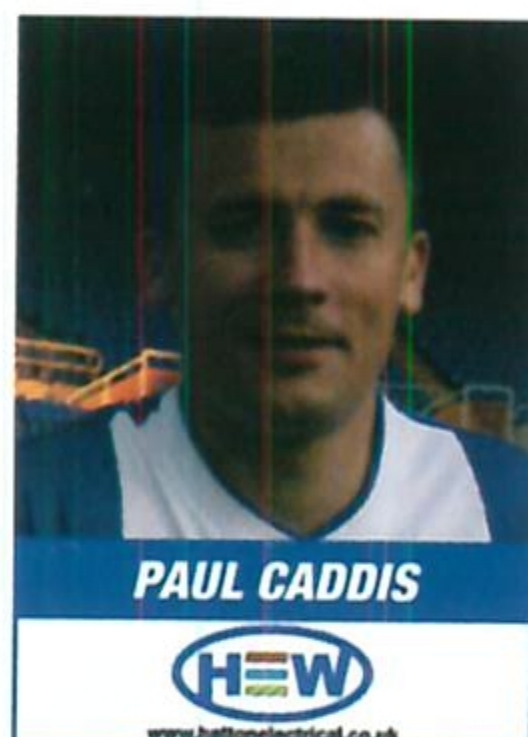
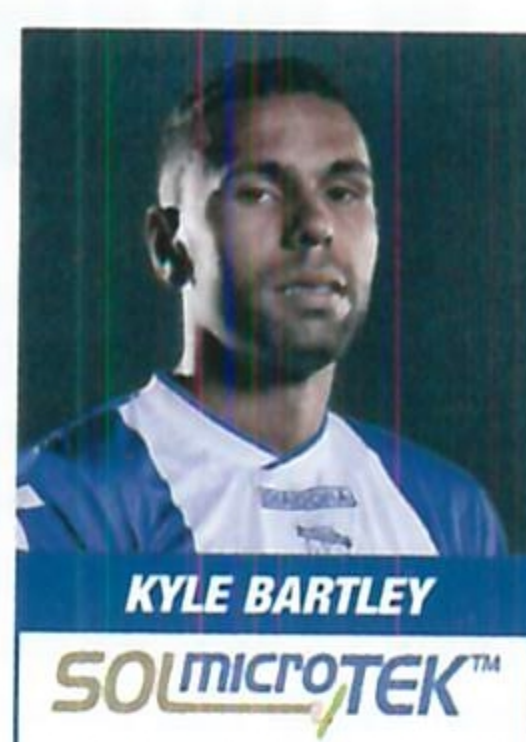
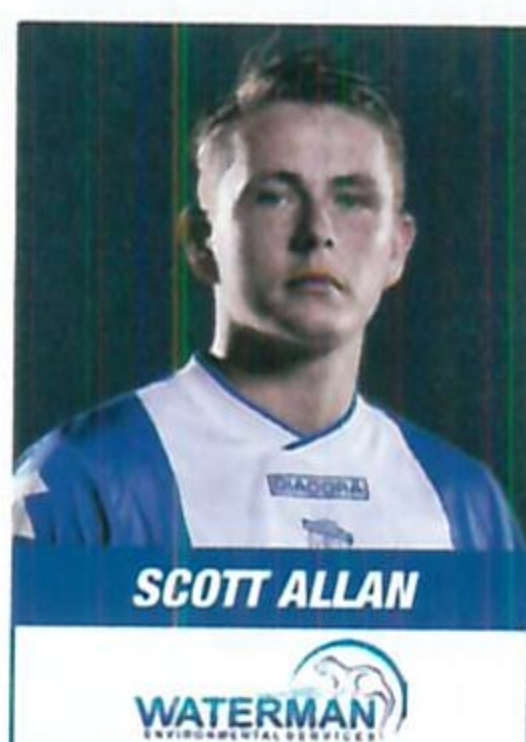
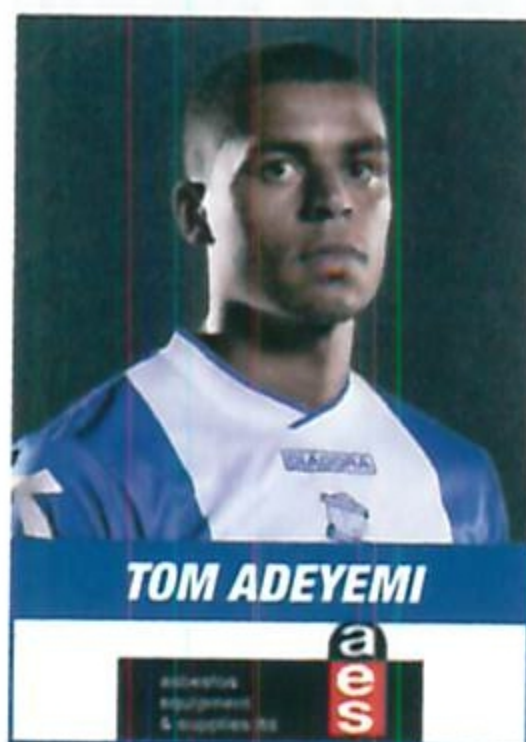
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If you'd like to check out Dants' album, head over to his website, www.iandanter.co.uk, where you can hear samples of each of the 15 songs and place an order for a signed copy of the CD. Alternatively, you can download the album from iTunes for £7.99 or 79p per track.



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This season Blues News will be introducing Birmingham City's unsung heroes, the team behind the team. Next into the hot seat is the club's head of commercial, Ian Dutton.

Can you tell us a bit about your background and how you ended up in your current role at Blues?

As a lifelong Birmingham City supporter since the age of four, working for the club was a dream-come-true! After leaving college at 18 I decided to venture into something totally different and work in the South of France for four years as a windsurf instructor, leaving my beloved Blues behind. Eventually I worked for the same company in their sales team. This helped me

I manage a team of seven full-time staff on a non-match day and an extra 20-plus on a matchday. My team and I will ensure that we maximise every commercial opportunity, selling hospitality, partnerships and football-related events. It is then our responsibility to ensure that we deliver a first-class experience on a matchday and we maximise commercial income.

How important is it for the club to maintain long-term relationships with local businesses?

BEHIND THE SCENES

**WITH HEAD
OF COMMERCIAL
IAN DUTTON**

to gain the necessary experience needed to start my new venture seven years ago working for the club – and I haven't looked back!

Give us an overview of your main responsibilities during a normal working week and on matchday?

It's massive! The local businesses, no matter how big or small, are integral to the club and I'd like to hope vice-versa. Working with the local businesses collectively, we can help reach and deliver new opportunities within our network. We genuinely like to work with as many local businesses as possible both from supply and commercial interests.



Ian Dutton

How much of an impact has not being in the Premier League had on your department and the ability to attract new business?

Over three billion people watch Premier League football every Saturday afternoon in 200-plus territories worldwide, therefore selling commercial opportunities will always be that little bit easier – especially when you welcome the likes of Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea to St. Andrew's. However, working in the Championship is a lot more rewarding. It is especially important that we maintain strong links with the local business community, whilst also maximising every other opportunity across the country. We have won the best hospitality in the Championship for the last two seasons, therefore ensuring that the delivery of our matchday operation is key to our on-going success.

Roughly what percentage of the club's commercial revenue now comes from non-matchday business, such as conferencing and events, and how important is that side of the operation?

The C&E department contributes to at least 15 to 20 per cent of the overall commercial revenue, therefore extremely important. We deal with some major clients such as the NHS, Birmingham City Council and many more. Therefore it is paramount again that we ensure our operational delivery is exceptional.

For fans that may never have experienced matchday hospitality at St. Andrew's, can you give us a brief overview?

We offer a full range of different packages catering to every need and budget. Whether it is a great seat in the stadium with access to a nice bar or the full VIP experience, we have a package for everyone. Our areas are not only fit for corporate clients, but also special events such as anniversaries, birthday and weddings, whatever the occasion we are happy to accommodate and be as flexible as possible. Plus one thing we can guarantee is that you will have an award-winning experience and an experience never to be forgotten.

Are there any exciting commercial developments coming up on the horizon that you can tell us about?

After listening to supporters over recent months, we have now officially opened Bar8, situated on the Main Stand side of the stadium. This is a bar for the fans and we

welcome as much feedback as possible. There are also many other exciting initiatives, events and developments on the horizon and all will be revealed in due course.

What part of your job gives you the greatest satisfaction?

This would have to be 100 per cent a happy customer/supporter, irrelevant of the result. If we can send our guests home knowing that they've had a magnificent experience win, lose or draw – then brilliant!

What has been your proudest achievement at Blues thus far?

This is tough as I have so many, but my proudest achievement was securing my first ever shirt sponsorship deal with Rational FX three years ago. Against all odds and working extremely hard we managed to secure a great deal with a great company the year we got relegated from the Premier League.

Finally, what are your long-term ambitions, both personally and for the club?

Personally, I would like to stay with the club for many years to come. I am an extremely ambitious guy and would love one day to be leading the operational side of the club from the top as chief exec. I'm a passionate supporter and have only the club and supporters' interests at heart. We have a fantastic staff team here, all working together for the same goal which is to make our club as successful as possible. Maintaining and developing both existing and new business relations in Birmingham and throughout the UK is priority for me and my department now, ensuring maximum commercial growth moving forward.

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Keeping track of our old boys

The first day of the season is always an optimistic one. After all, nothing has gone wrong yet. However Saturday August 19, 1967, was an especially bright one for Blues. Stan Cullis had persuaded Fred Pickering to trade in Division One Goodison Park for second tier St. Andrew's for a whopping £60,000. The striker who had hit 30 goals two seasons in a row was about to join the prolific Barry Bridges in an all-out attacking line-up that would surely carry us back to the big time. The unlucky recipients of this largesse were Bolton. Nothing personal, they were just in the way.

BLUES vs. BOLTON

"I am not going to start banging the big drum yet."
Stan Cullis
Blues manager

"When you have players in the attack with the experience and ability of Bridges, Hockey, Pickering and Vowden, you feel you must have a chance."
Ron Wylie
Blues captain



BY MATT KILLEEN

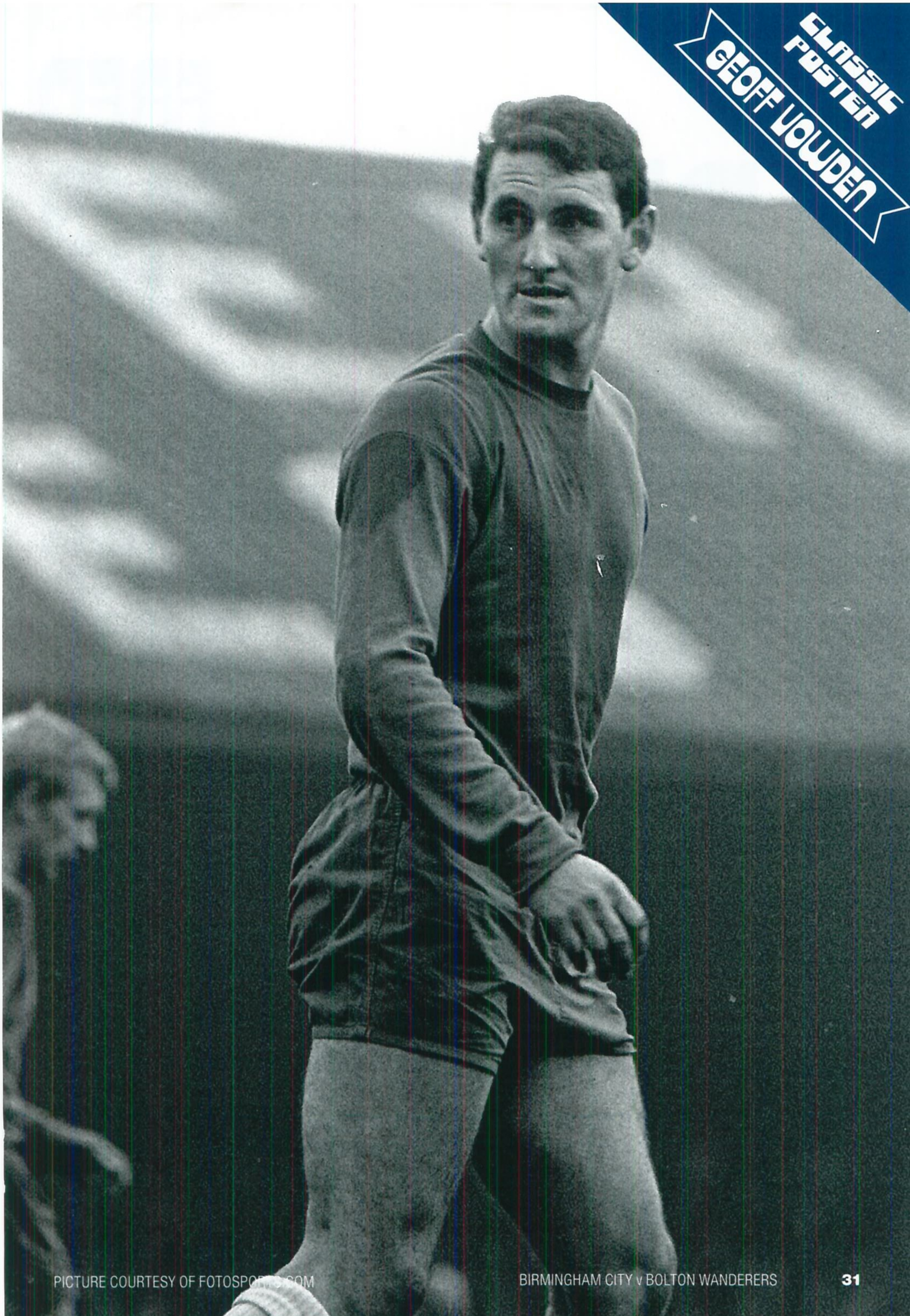
If you sat really, really close to the screen, so close that the static tickled and snapped at your skin, it just looked like hundreds of perfect little dots of red, blue and green against a black background. Then if you slowly moved back, all the dots started to merge, flash and vibrate, coalescing into movement. Then out of nowhere, the shimmering became grass, the movement became John Newcombe's tennis whites and, if you were far enough away, the blur became a ball. It all came together. With the right set and an awful lot of money, you could now watch Europe's first colour television channel, BBC2. Just as long as you liked tennis and Trumpton that is. For some this was enough – a sequel to Camberwick Green! But if you lived in Stockport it was easier to find a nearby plane crash and get in the way of the emergency services, because that was in colour too.

Into this new vivid future-now came Fred Pickering, a man who always looked like he was squinting into bright light anyway. He was largely viewed by the St. Andrew's faithful as the missing piece, the little blue dot that would make us kaleidoscopically vibrant, and the cog to make the Trumpton Clock of promotion work. Fred was a proven striking talent at the highest level, a big 16" Telefunken PALcolour 708T in cherry wood with a price tag to match.

As is so often the way the Trotters were so busy watching the new star that he didn't even need to score. Barry Bridges knocked in two of that season's astounding 28 goals, with Johnny Vincent and Trevor Hockey chipping in with one each. Bolton were lucky to get away without conceding two more and the setting sun saw Blues astride Division Two like a colossus.

The Trumpton Clock, lest we forget, was famous for "telling the time, steadily, sensibly; never too quickly, never too slowly". In other words it was consistent, balanced. Barry James in the Evening Mail praised Blues' "power & ruthlessness", but he also noted that "Birmingham did not look a completely transformed team from last season. The defence still need solid bolstering." In the face of such a bravura performance, a riotous rout in the summer light, I imagine Barry seemed rather misanthropic. In fact, he was a Cassandra, preaching a truth that no one could, or wanted to believe. Amongst the high-fidelity, over-saturated four and six-goal destructions and a wonderful charge to the FA Cup semi-finals, Blues leaked. In a competitive division it took just three bad results over the New Year to push them down to fourth and no amount of trouncings could make those points back.

Still, it was all very, very nice to look at and there was still Captain Scarlet to look forward to.



FRED PICKERING

FACT FILE

NAME: Fred Pickering

BORN: Blackburn,
January 19, 1941

POSITION: Striker

BLUES APPEARANCES: 88

BLUES GOALS: 32

SIGNED: August 1967 (£60,000
from Everton)

DEPARTED: June 1969
(to Blackpool)

FULL CAREER:

- Blackburn Rovers
- Everton
- Birmingham City
- Blackpool
- Blackburn Rovers
- Brighton & Hove

HONOURS:

- Blackburn - FA Youth Cup winner 1959, England - three full caps 1964



Fred heads home Blues' winner against Chelsea in the FA Cup quarter-final.

"And here comes Hurst, some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over - it is now!"

It's probably the most famous commentary line in the history of English football - but it could have been very different. Former Blues striker Fred Pickering was playing for Everton at the time of the 1966 World Cup. Unfortunately for him, he had suffered a knee injury earlier that season which put him out of contention for the ultimately successful squad. With five goals in just three internationals, Pickering was one of the hottest prospects in England and was pressing hard for inclusion that summer. Eighteen months later he left Goodison Park to make the switch to St. Andrew's, where he would look to rebuild his career following the injury.

After signing for £60,000 and becoming the club's marquee summer acquisition, Pickering made his debut against today's visitors Bolton Wanderers in a 4-0 success. "I had a bad injury when I left Everton; I was out for around a year-and-a-half with my knee. I went for a medical and was told I was not fit to play," Pickering reveals. "Stan Cullis, who was Blues' manager at the time, came up with the pay-as-you-play scheme and took a chance on me. I was never fully fit at Blues because of this injury; I probably played at 75 per cent fitness most of

the time there. If I had been fully fit, I might not have ever moved clubs. I started to play regularly. It took me five or six games to get back into the swing of it, but then I started scoring and creating goals and the team did well."

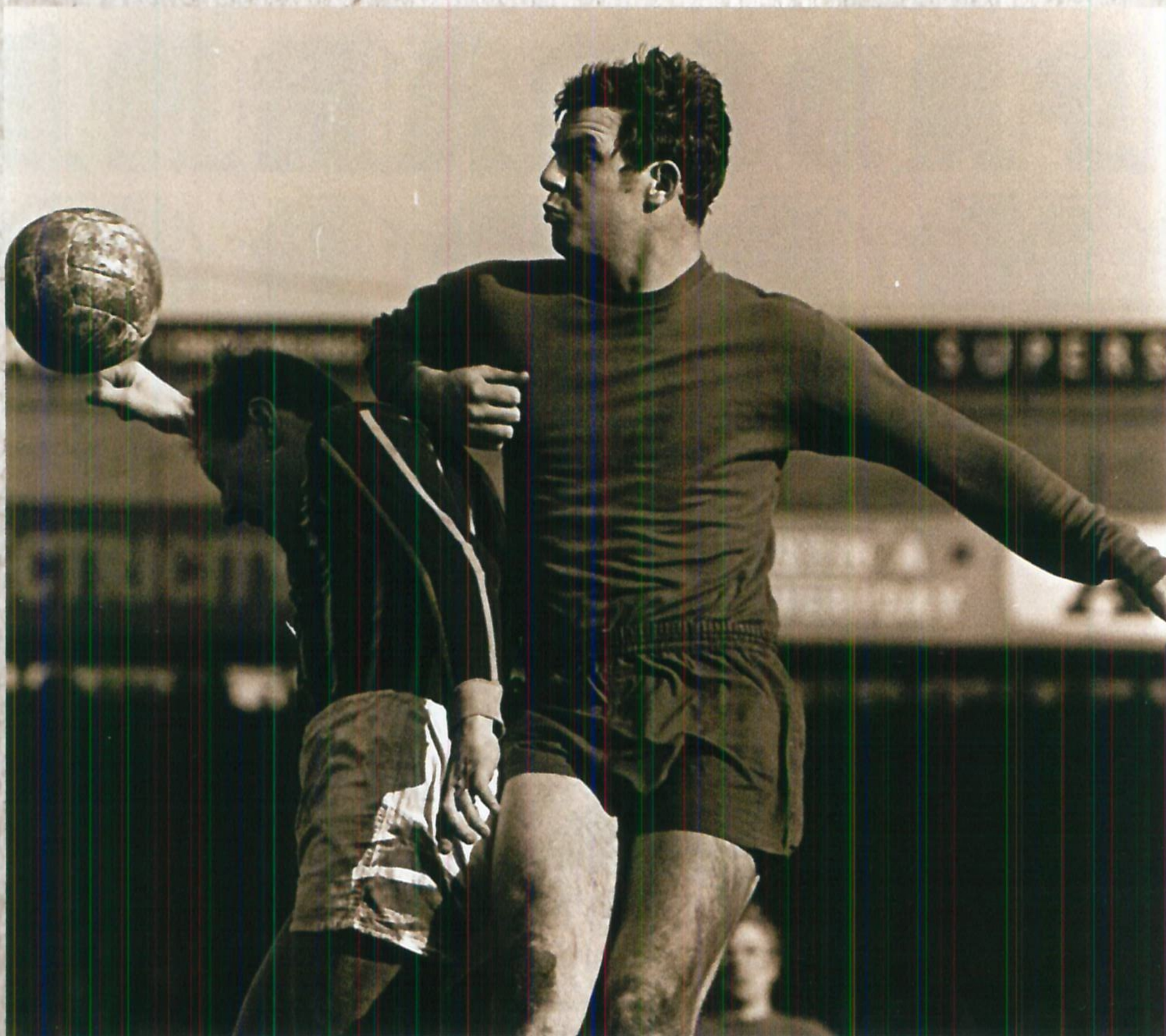
"HAD WE NOT HAD THE SUCCESSFUL CUP RUN, WE'D HAVE CERTAINLY WON PROMOTION TO THE FIRST DIVISION."

Pickering was a part of the side which reached the 1967/68 FA Cup semi-final, an occasion which was all the sweeter for him having missed both the semi-final and the final of the 1965/66 version in which Everton had triumphed. Blues lost the fixture 2-0, but it was not through a lack of trying - especially on the striker's behalf. "We had already knocked out Sheffield Wednesday and Arsenal before beating Chelsea in the quarter-final. We won that 1-0 and I scored the only goal," he recalls. "Then we played West Bromwich Albion in the semi-final and absolutely battered them. It was the best game I ever played for Birmingham. I hit the post, I hit the bar and their goalkeeper John Osborne saved everything. He was the luckiest man in the world that day. I had a fantastic game, but we got beat 2-0. We murdered them! Had we not had the

successful cup run, we'd have certainly won promotion to the First Division."

After two seasons at St. Andrew's, Pickering made the move back to Lancashire to the delight of his wife especially. Having been born and bred in Blackburn, Pickering was brought up supporting his local team, which gives him extra incentive to hope for a Blues win today against Rovers' local rivals. "I left because my family wasn't very happy living in Sutton Coldfield and my wife missed her family, so we went back to Lancashire. I'm a Blackburn-born lad and supporter, although I don't get chance to go as much as I used to. I always look out for Birmingham's results and as they're playing Bolton, I'll certainly be cheering for a Birmingham win today!"

Whilst Pickering never made it to Wembley in that fateful summer, one person heavily involved in that triumph did eventually make it to St. Andrew's as a World Cup winner – the manager Sir Alf Ramsey. So what was it like to play under the only England manager to win the ultimate prize? "We only spent a few days at a time with him, but he had some funny ways about him," Pickering reveals. "He wasn't my cup of tea. It's hard to explain, but we couldn't understand the things he said and his sneaky ways. He used to follow the players to the cinema the night before a game and see what they were doing. In those days, everybody smoked; it's not like it is today. He was doing the right thing – but he would go the toilets at the cinema and smoke himself!"



We delve into the Programme Vault to recall some notable past encounters between today's sides, while seeing how matchday periodicals have evolved through the ages...

The 1955/56 season will be forever cherished by longstanding Blues fans as their side competed in the upper echelons of the First Division table, as well as progressing to the final of the FA Cup. But, in a season that eventually saw Arthur Turner's men

seal sixth spot and lose to Manchester City at Wembley, there was one match that they would have liked to have seen erased from the records. The December 1955 visit to today's opponents Bolton Wanderers was one to forget as they were hit for six by a Nat Lofthouse-inspired Trotters side. The England international netted four goals, including a 16-minute hat-trick in his side's 6-0 battering of Blues at Burnden Park, for which the hosts produced an eight-page programme costing three old pence. The first of Lofthouse's quartet came courtesy of a good old-fashioned shoulder-charge on Blues keeper Gil Merrick – an action that nowadays would have an official frantically blowing on their whistle, but in the mid-20th century it was considered a legal tactic. Indeed Merrick had no complaints afterwards, insisting: "If a fair charge forces a goalkeeper into a blunder, it's all in the game. Nat's goal was perfectly fair."

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1933-4, 1947-8.
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1955-56 SEASON

FUTURE EVENTS AT BURNDEN PARK:

Football League	County League
Dec. 17—Chelsea ... 2-15	Dec. 24—Bury ... 2-15
Dec. 26—Manchester City ... 2-15	Dec. 27—Manchester City ... 2-15
Jan. 2—Huddersfield Town ... 2-15	Dec. 31—Chorley ... 2-15

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PROGRAMME VAULT

BY PETER LEWIS

BOLTON WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

BURNDEN PARK, BOLTON

SEASON 1960-61

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H. T. TYLDESLEY.
Manager-Secretary: W. RIDDING.

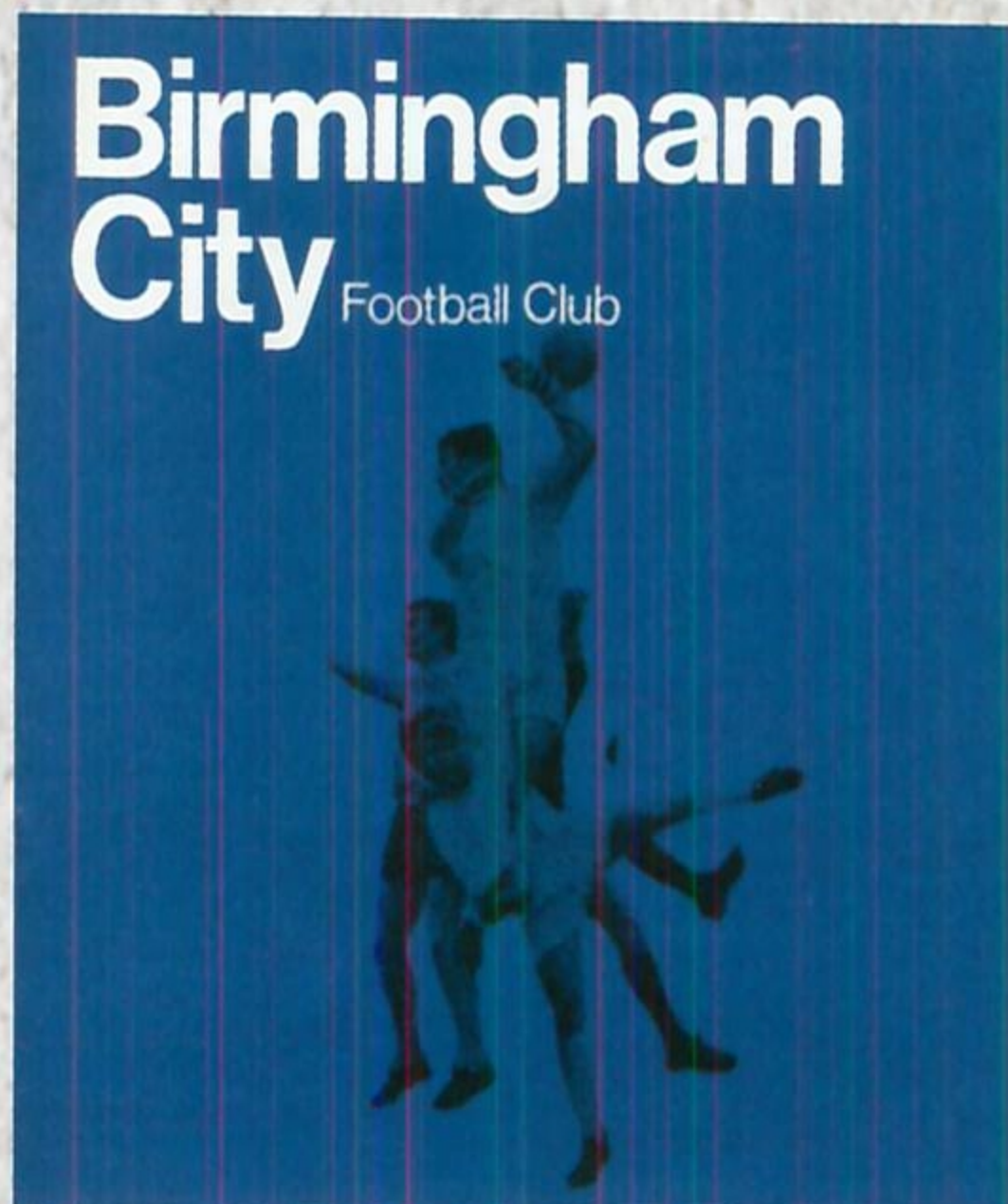
Telephone: BOLTON 800 Telegrams: "WANDERERS, BOLTON"



FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION I.
Saturday, August 20th
WANDERERS vs. BIRMINGHAM CITY

Five years later and Merrick was back at Burnden but this time he was in the dugout rather than between the sticks as he took charge of his first Blues game as boss in August 1960. "His experience – 21 years as a player with the club and England's most-capped goalkeeper in the post-war period – should serve him well in his efforts to control the club of which he has already given such valuable service," commented the Bolton programme in their opening-day issue, which remained at eight pages for three old pence despite the passing of half a decade. Blues had lost on their previous six visits to Burnden Park, so the 2-2 draw could be seen as something of an achievement in Merrick's managerial bow. Goals from Johnny Gordon and Harry Hooper sandwiched efforts from the home side by Ray Parry and Brian Birch.

Lofthouse made his final Bolton appearance in the reverse fixture between the sides that season, when a knee injury sustained in the match at St. Andrew's in December 1960 forced him to call time on his playing career. By the end of the decade he too had been tempted into trying his hand at management but had his work cut out at the Burnden Park helm, where gates had dropped below 10,000 and the club were struggling to stay afloat financially. He was in charge of Bolton for the Second Division clash at St. Andrew's in March 1969 and was quoted in Blues' 16-page, one shilling programme, as saying: "We can make the First Division." It was a declaration that never looked like coming to fruition, particular after his side were torn apart at St. Andrew's. Phil Summerill stole the show with a second-half hat-trick after Bolton survived a first-half blitz, trailing only to a Johnny Vincent goal at the break. Blues should have racked up a healthier interval advantage but failed to convert a host of chances and were almost made to pay as Freddie Hill hit the woodwork for Bolton and full debutant Garry Pendrey also hooked Ron Phillips' goal-bound effort off the line. But Stan Cullis' side were more clinical after the restart and Summerill

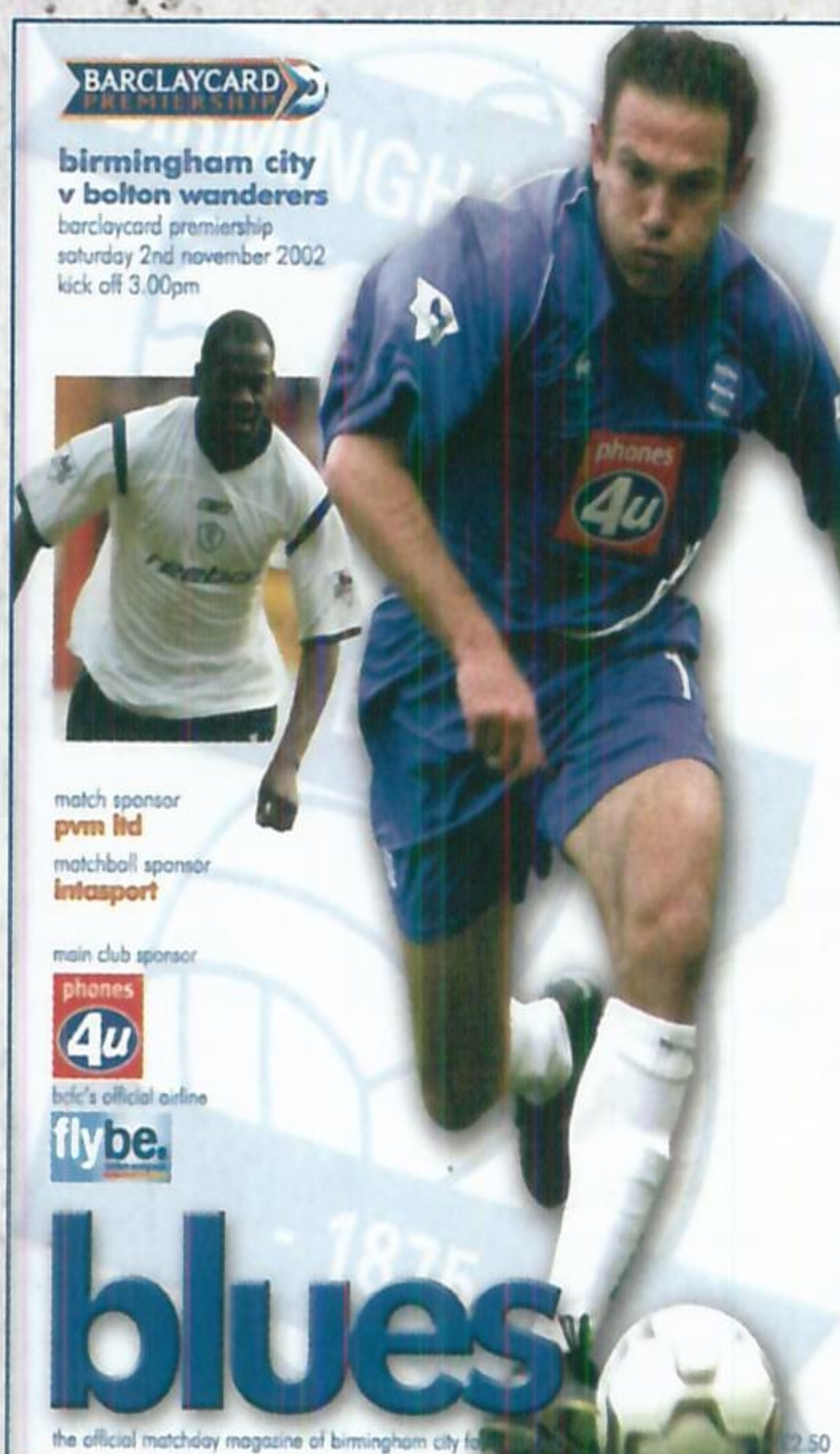


notched his second treble of the season, added to by Malcolm Beard's 35-yard wonder-strike, in a 5-0 home demolition.

Summerill's achievement pales into insignificance compared with the well-documented scoring exploits against the Trotters of a certain teenager by the name of Trevor Francis. At the age of just 16, the young striker bagged all four goals in a 4-0 home win over Bolton in only his tenth league start for the club. Francis went into the match in good form having registered five

goals in his previous four Second Division outings. The 24-page programme, which still only cost one shilling, included a shot of Francis' superb solo strike against Millwall in the last home league match. He followed that up with a brace at Hillsborough but nobody could have foreseen the four-goal blast that was to follow, apart from the man himself. Francis revealed to the press afterwards: "I did have a little bet with my landlady before the match and said I'd get a hat-trick."

We fast forward almost four decades for our final featured match – the first Premier League meeting of the sides in November 2002. Blues had made a promising start to their long-awaited top-flight return and the visit of rock-bottom Bolton represented the perfect chance to continue that progress. And so it transpired as goals from Darren Purse, Robbie Savage and Geoff Horsfield sealed a 3-1 home success. Jay-Jay Okocha did level for ten-man Bolton, who had Ricardo Gardner sent off for two bookable offences, but Savage's first goal for the club set Blues on their way to a fully deserved win. Horsfield made sure of the result with a late third after his introduction as a substitute for the final half-hour. The striker was featured in that day's programme – a 68-page publication for £2.50 – and in the interview he admitted: "I don't really mind coming off the bench and doing all I can to change the game."





THEN AND NOW

The player Q&A was a staple ingredient of most football programmes and magazines during the 1970s and 80s. In a pre-internet era, it was the only opportunity fans had to gain an insight into the professional and personal lives of their matchday idols. Peter Lewis has dug into the archives to retrieve some of those Blues News interrogations from days gone by and got in touch with the interviewees in question to see how the passing of a few decades may have altered some of their answers. Today we catch up with Alan Ainscow...

"To play in a cup final at Wembley" – a natural dream of footballers at every level of the game, but one that only comes true for a small minority. Not only did Alan Ainscow achieve the professional ambition that he set himself in Blues News in 1980, but he can boast a winner's medal. Admittedly it was only the Full Members Cup – an additional competition introduced in 1985 for clubs in the top two divisions and which ran for seven seasons – but he got to walk up the famous 39 steps and lift the cup to the cheers of the Blackburn fans amongst the 43,000-plus crowd.

Alan tells Blues News: "The 1987 Full Members Cup Final was a fantastic occasion, made all the more enjoyable by the fact that we beat Charlton 1-0 to win the trophy. In fact if I had to choose my favourite ground now it would have to be Wembley. There is no better place to play!"

The other honour from his 20-plus years in the game came here at St. Andrew's when he was part of the Blues side that made an immediate return to the top flight in 1980. A keenly-contested promotion race went right to the wire with just two points separating the top four clubs ahead of the final weekend's fixture. Blues still had an outside chance of clinching the title whilst they knew that, due to their vastly superior goal difference over fellow challengers Chelsea, a draw at home to struggling Notts County would be enough to seal a top-three berth. Leading 3-1 at the break, the bumper 33,00 crowd were ready to party. The mood soon changed however, as the visitors mounted a second-half comeback to set up a nervy finish. But Blues held on.

"The day that we got promoted with Birmingham in 1980 was quite memorable, for

PERSONAL FILE

ALAN

AINSCOW



Born Bolton, 19th July 1963.
Signed professional for Blackpool in July 1971 and in seven years with the Seaside club he appeared in 178 + (14) League games (28 goals), in 6 + (1) FAC ties and in 10 League Cup matches. His debut was v Swindon (H) August 1971. In July 1978 he moved to Birmingham City and made his bow for Blues versus Manchester United at Old Trafford on 19th August 1978.



MANAGER'S REPORT

Alan has consistently displayed the qualities which prompted me to buy him from Blackpool, namely hard work, considerable ability plus honesty in all he does.

He has made the step up from Second Division to the First with commendable success. It was typical of him that when I decided to leave him out of the side recently because I felt his contribution had fallen away he came storming back with a one performance and the winning goal against

Full Name	Alan Ainscow
Position	Midfield/Forward
Birthplace	Bolton
Family	Wife: Paula, Children: Natalie 4, Melissa 2, Zoe 2 (Twins)
Pets	None
Previous Clubs	Blackpool
Full League Appearances	272
Most Memorable Cup-tie	v Bologna Anglo-Italian Cup Final won 2-1
League Goals	37
Honours	2 Anglo-Italian Cup medals
Favourite Ground (after St. Andrew's)	Deepdale
Most Memorable Match	v Preston 1973, won 3-0, scored 3
Countries Visited	Many European Countries plus U.S.A.
Best Player Ever Faced	Bobby Charlton
Biggest Disappointment	Cartilage Operation 1974
Worst Injury	Cartilage Operation 1974
Hobbies	Golf, Music, Gardening
Favourite Sportman (outside Soccer)	Born Borg
Favourite Singer	Barry Manilow
Favourite Bands	Supertramp, Yes, New Musik
Favourite Current Record	L.P. - From A to B - New Musik
Favourite TV Programme	Most comedies, Not the 9 o'clock News, Tinseltown, Benny Hill, Crossroads
Favourite Film	Friday The Thirteenth
Favourite Actor	John Cusack
Favourite Actress	Kenny Rogers
Person Most Liked To Meet	Nobody in particular
Dislikes In Football	Practice matches, Bad football journalism, Violence on the terraces.
Dislikes Outside Football	Smoking, Women drivers, Getting my hair cut and shaving.
Biggest Influence On Career	My father, Bob Stokoe and Dr K. Barnes (Surgeon)
Professional Ambition	To play in a Cup Final at Wembley.
Personal Ambition	To stay happy and healthy along with my wife and children. Everything else is a bonus.

Alan celebrates
Colin Hendrey's
Wembley winner
for Blackburn
in 1987.



the wrong reasons in some ways," admits Alan. "It was a bit of an anti-climax really because actually we drew 3-3 on the day. I remember sitting in the dressing room afterwards and everyone was feeling a bit deflated, even though we'd just got promoted. That was a weird feeling!"

The striker became one of Jim Smith's first signings as Blues boss when he made the switch from Blackpool in 1978 at the age of 25. Alan remembers Smith as a hard task-master but one that got results. "In terms of getting me doing what I did best, in a weird sort of way, it was probably Jim Smith," he replies, when asked about the biggest influences on his career. "I was his whipping-boy to a degree but I probably had my three best years in football at Birmingham. Bob Stokoe got me on the road at Blackpool and then Jim got me going at Blues."

After 22 goals in 125 games at St. Andrew's, Alan was sold to Everton for £250,000, but sadly what promised to be a step up the football ladder was seriously hampered by injury. "The biggest disappointment of my career was not going on to fulfil my potential at Everton," he admits. "I did my knee ligaments and never really got back into it after that."

As well as achieving his aim of playing in a cup final at Wembley, Alan admits that he would have liked to have played for his country although, in his later years, he did receive international recognition of sorts. He explains: "Back in the 1990s they used to have a Seniors World Cup competition

for over-35s. I played in Miami in one and then in Italy a couple of years later, alongside the likes of Bobby Moore, Martin Peters and Frank Worthington. We didn't get to the final but it was a good crack and there was some top players out there, such as Brazilian World Cup winner Rivelino."

**I PROBABLY HAD
MY THREE BEST
YEARS IN FOOTBALL
AT BIRMINGHAM.**

ALAN
AINSCOW

Alan went on to reveal his rather eclectic music taste. "I quite like The Script," he says, before adding: "I've got an iPod with thousands of tunes, ranging from Bangra music to Tchaikovsky!" He chooses Phil Taylor as his favourite sportsman, explaining: "I watch quite a bit of darts and you have to admire him for what he's achieved. It's only when you come to try and throw a dart that you realise that it's not as easy as he makes it look!" Turning to the big screen, he goes for Liam Neeson – "Even though he's not exactly the best actor in the world" – and chooses The Apprentice as his favourite TV programme. However, we're not sure what former Blues managing director Karren Brady would make of Alan's reasoning: "It's watchable garbage," he laughs.

Alan's personal ambition of staying happy and healthy came to fruition over the last 33 years; that is until he received the devastating diagnosis this summer that he had terminal prostate cancer. He had been spurred into visiting his GP after reading an article in the Professional Footballers' Association magazine about the disease and recognising one of the symptoms. "It has started to spread to my bones – it's treatable but not curable," explains the 60-year-old.

Alan's prognosis is good and it's expected that he will be able to live with the disease for several years. And rather than feeling sorry for themselves, Alan and his family – he has five kids and seven grandchildren, with another one due in November – have set about organising various charity games and tournaments to raise funds and awareness for Prostate Cancer UK. He adds: "The signs were not obvious, as is the case with prostate cancer, and it's important that people get to know what the symptoms are and not be afraid to go and do something about it."

Everyone at Birmingham City would like to wish Alan all the best for the future. If you would like to learn more about prostate cancer and its symptoms, log on to www.prostatecanceruk.org.



A TRUE

BLUE DIAMOND

**TREVOR
FRANCIS**

In April next year Trevor Francis will celebrate his 60th birthday and, in honour of this notable personal milestone, throughout this season we'll be recounting the story of the Blues legend's incredible playing career at St. Andrew's...

Trevor Francis was back in the first-team fold and wearing the number eight shirt to which he would become synonymous as Blues finished 1970 with two wins and a draw. Freddie Goodwin's side began to climb the table. Good times were on their way back to St. Andrew's. However, it came at a personal price for Francis as he was no longer an unknown quantity. He was fast becoming a household name and many opposition defenders resorted to more heavy-handed tactics to put him off his stride – quite literally when it came to an FA Cup tie at Huddersfield Town early in 1971. The Terriers' no-nonsense centre-half Geoff Hutt pushed Francis onto the cinder track that surrounded the Leeds Road pitch to bring a halt to one of his electrifying runs. As team-mate Alan Campbell said to the

defender at the time: "If that had happened at St. Andrew's, you'd have been lynched!"

Francis was the new fans' favourite at Blues – and the feeling was mutual. The teenager thrived off the warmth and compassion that emanated from the terraces. "I don't expect to get ever again such a lift from the crowds as I got at the start," admitted Francis, in his 1980 book 'Anatomy of a £1 million player'. "It was staggering, really. People talked about some of the things I did as a teenager, saying how I just used to go out there and do things naturally. Well, I felt inspired to do so by the fans."

The striker's popularity was to increase by seismic proportions after one particular February afternoon at St. Andrew's. The

football world stepped back and took a collective gasp as news filtered through of a 16-year-old scoring four goals in a Second Division fixture. The match in question was, of course, against today's opponents Bolton and propelled Francis onto the back page of every national newspaper. "He is the type of boy who can cope with publicity," insisted Blues boss Goodwin, who felt that it had actually been one of the striker's 'quietest matches'. "My main concern is to try to keep the pressure off him as much as possible. But how can you when he keeps scoring?"



Francis scores the first of his quartet despite the desperate attempts of Bolton defender John Ritson to keep it out.

The goals continued to flow – an astonishing 14 in ten outings between December 1970 and March 1971. In fact, after the solitary game during that sequence when he didn't find the net, it came as such a shock that BBC's Sport Report felt compelled to inform their listeners that 'Francis did not score today!' Unsurprisingly, rumours began to spread of early interest from other clubs in Blues' prized asset, with Arsenal reported to be preparing a £150,000 bid. Blues moved quickly to squash such speculation by stating: "There is no chance of letting him go."

**NEXT
TIME**

Nearly 50,000 fans pack St. Andrew's as Francis mania takes hold



Throughout this season we'll be taking a nostalgic look back at some of the grounds that Blues have visited over the years that are sadly no longer part of the football scene, with the help of some of the fans that used to call it home.

It seems only appropriate that our next port of call is Burnden Park – the former home of today's visitors Bolton Wanderers...

'All together better' – the advertising slogan once used by the supermarket chain which now occupies Burnden Park. It also sums up nicely what many of the Lancashire club's longstanding supporters still feel about their former ground.

Situated just a mile from the town centre, generations of Bolton fans had strolled along the Manny Road eager to enjoy their first taste of live football. Those wishing to 'pocket the difference' headed for the terraces while the seats in the Manchester Road Stand afforded the more affluent Trotter the best view of the action.

Lifelong Bolton fan Johnny Goodman tells Blues News: "Burnden Park was a great, traditional sanctuary. There was a diverse range of matchday experience and each one had such fantastic perks. The best atmosphere was in the Burnden Terrace, where the fans squeezed in to shout and scream for their team. The Great Lever End was great for families behind the goal and the Manchester Road Stand was perfect for those who just wanted to sit and enjoy the game. Admittedly by the 1990s the stadium was outdated but it had that homely charm, not to mention all that history. In short, Burnden Park was the first place I

ever had the pleasure to watch a professional game of football in the flesh, so it will always be my original football home."

Visitors' memories of Burnden Park are not quite so romantic. Not only were the travelling contingent tucked away on an uncovered terrace in a corner of the ground, but from 1986 the view of many was partially obstructed by a wall. The club were struggling financially and made the decision to sell off a section of the stand behind the goal to superstore chain Normid. Johnny admits: "That really was quite unique and served as an embarrassing target for out-of-form strikers – the crash of wayward shots hitting metal around a quiet stadium must have been quite humbling. Unfortunately, and some say intentionally, the away end was rather exposed to the elements, as any travelling fan who attended a midweek game in the cold bite of winter would confirm."

Bolton won the FA Cup four times during their Burnden Park residence but the competition is also linked to one of the biggest tragedies in British football history. Thirty-three people lost their lives following the collapse of crush barriers on the steep Embankment terrace during a quarter-

BLUENOSES' MEMORIES

Blues fans have been sharing their memories of Burnden Park via the club's Facebook page...

We played there in the penultimate game of the 93/94 season when we were fighting relegation. The ground was closed by something like 1.30pm due to the number of Bluenoses. When we scored three-quarters of the ground erupted. Who could forget the white line which showed where the supermarket would restrict the view of the pitch?

Catherine Robinson

We drew 1-1 that day. Louie Donowa had a shot cleared off the line in the last few minutes. If he'd scored we'd have stayed up. We won 2-1 at Tranmere Rovers the following week but still got relegated.

Mark Clarke

All the old grounds were unique. It's all just soulless bowls of seats now – real shame.

Simon Hickson

Best pies ever at a footie match.

Colin Teager

That relegation game has to be the standout memory of Burnden Park. Blues fans everywhere. I remember when we scored half their main stand, which was full of Blues fans, went barmy. Happy days.

Richard Percy

final tie against Stoke City in March 1946.

Many fans had been lured to the ground that day by the prospect of seeing a young striker by the name of Nat Lofthouse. "It was before my time but the stories are endless of how he carried the side to FA Cup success and was a one-man club for the duration of his career," says avid Trotters fan Johnny of the man for whom a statue was recently erected at the club's current Reebok Stadium home. "Plus the stories of his kindness to fans and lifelong commitment to Bolton Wanderers – he was a model professional."

Another of the Burnden Park legends hails from its final years – in fact he aptly bagged the last goal at the ground. John McGinlay earned cult status due to his unceasing work-rate and unbelievable knack of scoring goals when most needed. The Scotland international forward played an integral role in the one match that Johnny picks out as the highlight of his years watching football at the Trotters' old ground.

"It was April 1996. Bolton had suffered a torrid first season in the Premier League, pretty much rock bottom for the duration of the campaign with little to shout about. However, little did

I know that this was about to change when a Chelsea side which included legendary veteran Ruud Guulit plus the likes of Dennis Wise and Dan Petrescu visited Burnden Park. When the visitors took an early lead through Scott Minto things looked ominous. But we started to battle our way back and McGinlay popped up to score the equaliser. Sasa Curcic then scored a brilliant individual goal to put us 2-1 up. The reversal of fortunes in a game always sets the adrenalin racing, but for minnows Bolton against Chelsea it was something else. Even better, in the second half our young, inexperienced goalkeeper Gavin Ward made a string of second-half saves to ensure Bolton hung on to secure what was our last Premier League win at Burnden Park."

That first-ever Premier League experience in Burnden Park's penultimate season was the culmination of a remarkable roller-coaster ride for the club. They had sunk to the depths of the Fourth Division in 1987 and then back up to the top flight within eight years. Even though the ground's final term – 1996/97 – was played out in England's second tier, it was to prove one of the most memorable ever.

"The last season at Burnden was my favourite as a Wanderers fan," says Johnny, from the Voice of

Bolton website. "We finished the season on 98 points, a record in the Championship at the time. "Fittingly McGinlay scored the last two goals in a 4-1 win against Charlton. It just had to be him. Leaving the stadium on a high made it an easier pill to swallow, but it was sad to leave the town centre behind for a move to the retail park."

The terracing at Burnden clung on to the bitter end, despite the Taylor Report's recommendations that all clubs in the top two divisions should have all-seated stadiums by 1994. Johnny admits that moving to a shiny, modern 25,000-seated home was initially an exciting prospect. But, despite the vastly improved facilities, matchdays at the Reebok are just not quite the same. "It's difficult to put a finger on, but at times the collective togetherness just hasn't been replicated and, in my opinion, that reason for that lies solely with all-seated stadia," he concludes.

The terraces packed with fans have now been replaced by aisles rammed with shoppers, the smell of Bovril and stale cigarettes substituted with the whiff of Asda's hot roast chicken. But at least there is a permanent reminder of times gone by with a display of historic Bolton Wanderers pictures decorating one of the supermarket's walls.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER

5

BLUES 2 CHELSEA 1

BATTLE OF THE BLUES

This First Division game was notable for the league debut of one Joe Loughran, a school teacher by trade, who played at left-wing-half for Blues. "A good one," the Daily Mirror said of his first appearance. "The men in front of him got a lot of accurate passes." The Mirror described Chelsea as "well beaten" by the home side, despite the scoreline, concentrating – as London papers always have done – on the shortcomings of a side based in the capital rather than the scintillating form of a team from the provinces.

Fred Harris (pictured) nodded in his third of the season to open the scoring before Charlie Wilson Jones – who would out-score Harris with 19 league goals for the season – saw a fierce drive turned into his

own net by visiting defender Craig. Yet, despite the domination, Blues let Chelsea back into the game when Harry Burgess scored from a corner, and were left hanging on for dear life, with Bill Barraclough hitting the woodwork and Harry Hibbs at this best to keep out a fierce shot from Dick Spence.

After a slow start, this victory lifted Blues into 11th spot and for much of the season the class of 1935/36 found themselves threatening near the top of the league, sitting in fifth spot at various times between December and March. Sadly they couldn't keep it up and slid out of the top ten on the very last day of the season to finish in 12th spot, their lowest position since kicking off in this very match.

BLUES 4 MANCHESTER CITY 0

SPUD MASHES MAN CITY

Until Jesse Lingard's four-goal burst on his club bow, Peter Murphy (pictured) had the proud honour of being Blues' only hat-trick debutant, scoring three times at Doncaster in 1952. Five years later and he was still banging in the goals for Blues, who were by then in the top division. Arthur Turner's side had started the season slowly, however, and were lying in the relegation spots with just seven points from their opening 11 games going into this one. Manchester City on the other hand were sitting pretty in mid-table, but their away record – with 23 goals already conceded in just five

matches on their travels – hinted at what was to come.

Anyone who turned up five minutes late to this game would have already missed 'Spud' Murphy's first two strikes for the home side. And that was how it stayed until half-time. Blues were slightly slower out of the traps in the second-half, taking another four minutes to make the game safe with Eddy Brown notching the third goal. Murphy then rounded off the scoring – and his hat trick – four minutes after that, to lead Blues to their first victory over Man City since that cup final 18 months earlier.

1935

1957

DERBY 0 BLUES 3

BLUES' RAM-RAID

Blues only made the fourth round of the League Cup in 1983, but played an incredible eight matches in the process. Before the epic four-match struggle against fellow top-flight side Notts County, however, they had a more traditional two-legged encounter with Derby County. The Rams, who would be relegated to the third tier at the end of the 1983/84 season, proved little resistance to Blues, as this regulation 3-0 victory at the Baseball Ground proved.

Blues opened the scoring on 17 minutes when Dave Watson put through his own net, and Tony Rees effectively settled the tie before half-time when he doubled the visitors' advantage. Howard Gayle (pictured) netted the third on 85 minutes. Blues would then thump Derby 4-0 in the return leg, with Mick Harford bagging his only hat-trick for the club in the process. Sadly having finally dispatched Notts County, Blues found themselves up against League Cup kings Liverpool, but did at least force a replay before bowing out 3-0 at Anfield just before Christmas. Bah humbug.

1983



This game could have finished oh-so-differently if Fulham hadn't squandered an early chance after just 45 seconds. Blues broke up the other end and Johnny Vincent opened the scoring. From then on, however, it was the Jimmy Greenhoff (pictured) show, the striker notching twice before 25 minutes were up to leave the home side cruising, a scoreline they maintained until the half-time break.

On 48 minutes the home side still held that three-goal lead, and yet within five minutes Fulham somehow clawed themselves level. Blues looked to have regained the momentum when Greenhoff picked

himself up to take the penalty awarded for a trip on him on 65 minutes, but incredibly he missed. Rather than let his head drop, Greenhoff made amends within a minute, but just two minutes later Fulham equalised yet again. But three minutes later Greenhoff pounced, this time poking the ball home after a fumble from the Fulham keeper. There was still time for late drama as the visitors nearly bagged an equaliser, Reg Matthewson's shot only being blocked by his own team-mate, one Malcolm MacDonald. "The ball hit me in the mouth, I just couldn't get out of the way," complained the future England international striker afterwards.

BLUES 5 FULHAM 4

FOUR-TUNE FAVOURS GREENHOFF

1968





Robert Hopkins, Ian Atkins, Frank Worthington, Kevan Broadhurst, Ian Clarkson, Phil Hawker and Joe Gallagher pictured at an All-Stars game earlier this season.

BLUES ALL-STARS FIXTURES

Here's when and where you can watch some of your former St. Andrew's favourites in action over the next few weeks playing for the Blues All-Stars side...

Sun Oct 6 v Rubery Old Stars

Rubery Leisure Centre
Kick-off: 11am

Sun Nov 10 v Armed Forces (for Help for Heroes)

Rover Sports and Social,
Northfield. Kick-off: 11am

DEBUT MEN

The following 11 post-war players all made their competitive Blues debut against today's opponents...

Tony Blake
(18/02/1950)

Brian Farmer
(06/10/1956)

Dennis Harper
(20/02/1957)

Alex Harley
(24/08/1963)

Fred Pickering
(19/08/1967)

Neil Freeman
(02/09/1978)

Anders Limpar
(01/02/1997)

Graham Hyde
(21/02/1999)

Matt Upson
(01/02/2003)

Borja Oubina
(15/09/2007)

Rafael Schmitz
(15/09/2007)

A further 14 players made their Blues bow against Bolton between 1894 and 1938.

FORMER PLAYER NEWS

BY ADAM SNELLESKZ

League One sees a plethora of ex-Blues players plying their trade in the third tier of the English league. There have been some new arrivals to the division from foreign shores and some a little closer to home, while there have been mixed fortunes at the top and bottom of the league.

Walsall have re-signed **Julian Gray**, who has returned to this country after a spell in Cyprus with Nea Salamina Famagusta, much to the delight of the Saddlers boss Dean Smith. He said: "Julian is a player who has done well for me in the past. He's got a great attitude and plenty of experience and quality, which will only enhance our squad."

A more recent inhabitant of St. Andrew's, **Marlon King**, made his debut for Sheffield United last weekend. Unfortunately for him, his experience couldn't stop the Blades dropping to the bottom of the league

as they slumped to a 2-0 defeat at Wolves. The 33-year-old has signed a deal until the end of the season at Bramall Lane and boss David Weir is hoping he'll bring more than much-needed goals to the side. "We have been lacking someone with his know-how and his presence will take the pressure off the younger lads, whilst giving everyone a lift," said Weir.

You'd be forgiven for forgetting **Caleb Folan's** brief stint at St. Andrew's after the striker failed to make an appearance during Chris Hughton's reign but the striker has now signed for Bradford after training with the Bantams on a non-contract basis.

The match between Crawley and Oldham had a royal blue tinge to it as **Adam Rooney** lined up for the Latics and Crawley featured **Mat Sadler** and loanee from last season **James Hurst**. Crawley came out on top 1-0. In west London, **Martin Taylor**



The
Wiseman
Family



CLARITY
CLARITY COPIERS LTD

REMEMBERING RON

Former Blues inside-forward Ron Fenton sadly passed away on September 25 at the age of 73. The South Shields-born striker joined Blues in January 1965 for a £7,500 fee from West Brom and went on to clock up 40 appearances, scoring eight goals, during his three years at St. Andrew's. Fenton should really have had another goal to his name when his shot was clearly carried over the line by Tottenham Hotspur keeper Bill Brown in an FA Cup quarter-final in 1967. It was seen by everyone in the 51,000 crowd that day but not by the man that mattered – the referee waved play on, the game finished goalless and Spurs won the replay 6-0 on their way to claiming the cup.

Fenton later went into management and spent two years at the helm of Notts County before crossing the River Trent to join the coaching staff at Forest. Despite making over 200 senior appearances and notching 52 goals during his playing career, he is probably best remembered for his many years' service at the City Ground, where he was an integral part of the backroom team as Brian Clough's charges twice lifted the European Cup.



PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS

The following 25 players have turned out for both Blues and Bolton Wanderers during their career...

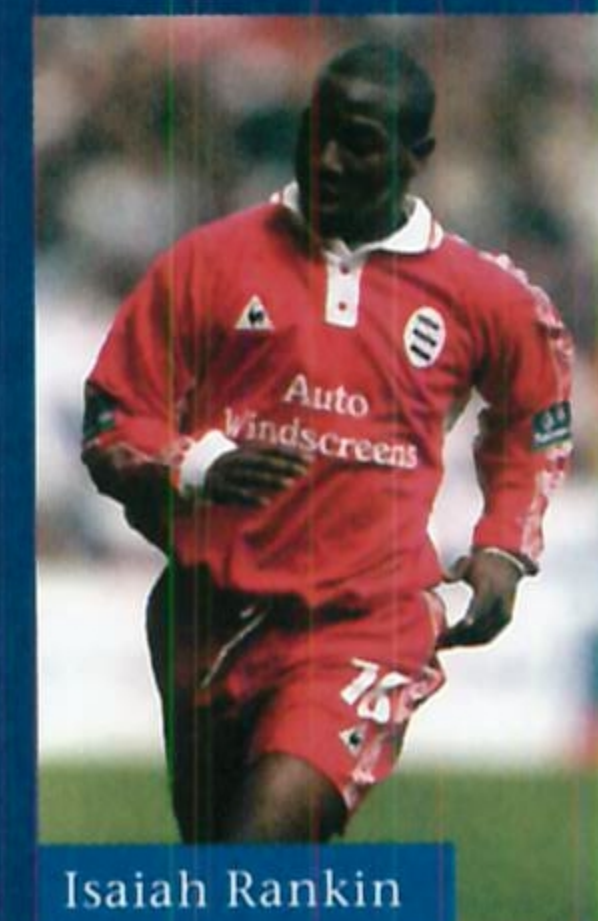
Arthur Archer
Simon Charlton
Tony Evans
Paul Fitzpatrick
Tom Grosvenor
Rob Hall
Bob Hatton
Nicky Hunt
Radhi Jaidi
Allan Johnston
Andy Kennedy
William McCafferty
Jim McDonagh
Fabrice Muamba
Bruno N'Gotty
Jamie Pollock
Kevin Poole
Isaiah Rankin
Paul Robinson
John Sheridan
Bryan Small
Stuart Storer
Gordon Taylor
Neil Whatmore
Frank Worthington

is enjoying life in League One with Brentford. The central defender scored his second goal in three games since arriving at Griffin Park from Sheffield Wednesday on loan last month. However the most obvious statement of the week goes to Brentford manager Uwe Rosler, who said of the defender: "Martin has a bunch of experience and is a big unit."

Meanwhile, **Mark Cooper** is still struggling to find a level of consistency at Swindon as the Robins sit in mid-table. Most recently they suffered a defeat to Preston with the ex-midfielder and son of former Blues boss Terry Cooper feeling somewhat deflated: "I'm frustrated. We looked very lethargic for large parts of the game. We didn't pass the ball properly today and we conceded another two sloppy goals."



Marlon King battles with Wolves' Danny Batth during Sheffield United's defeat at Molineux last weekend.



Isaiah Rankin

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5 FORECAST

Beau v Fans – who'll finish as top dog?



Throughout this season Beau Brummie will be taking on a posse of young Bluenoses in a battle of football foresight. Beau will give his predictions for five selected games from today's calendar of fixtures and go head-to-head with a different junior fan in each issue. There will be one point awarded for a correct result (home win, away win or draw) and three points for getting the scoreline spot on. We'll keep a running total to see who finishes as top dog at the end of the season. Why not fill in your own predictions now and discover whether you've beaten Beau come 5pm?

Next up to face Beau is eight-year-old Rachel Ivery, who is a Family Stand season ticket holder.

teams	Rachel		YOU!
Tottenham v West Ham	3-2	2-1	
Blues v Bolton	1-3	1-0	
QPR v Barnsley	2-2	4-1	
Notts County v Crewe	2-2	0-0	
Oxford v Southend	1-0	3-0	

YOUR CHANCE TO STAR ON THIS PAGE

If you're under 16 and would like a chance to compete against Beau in a future programme, please email beaubrummie@bcfc.com, putting 'Forecast Five' in the subject line and we'll be in touch.

total

Four-year-old Alex Shaw from Wednesbury (with a little help from his dad Jon!) gained a highly creditable four points for the young Blues fans in Tuesday's round of matches but he was still beaten by Beau, who finally discovered his mystic powers. Blackburn's defeat of Watford surprised both competitors but otherwise Alex and Beau correctly predicted the outcomes of the other four games. And Beau bagged himself an extra two points by getting the Charlton-Forest scoreline of 1-1 spot on to secure a 6-4 success. It was enough to draw him level in the season overall as the challenge between Beau and the junior Bluenoses really heats up.

**RUNNING TOTAL:
YOUNG BLUENOSES 11 BEAU 11**



TrueBlue JUNIORS

find out how you rate on the Beau-meter of knowledge!

Stadium Crossword

Can you identify the following six football grounds in this crossword? Score one point for each full stadium name you get right.

1	1				2		3
2							
		3					
4							

Across

- 1: Home of the Red Devils (second part of the name)
- 2: The ____ - where Millwall play
- 3: The ____ Stadium - where Steve Bruce is boss
- 4: ____ Road - where Leyton Orient fans go to watch the Os

Down

- 1: ____ Stadium - home of today's visitors Bolton
- 2: Home of the Red Devils (first part of the name)
- 3: The Lilywhites of Preston play here



BEAU'S BRAINBUSTERS

Beau is playing quizmaster again this season with his selection of puzzles and teasers to get your brain cogs whirring. There are points on offer for each quiz, add up your total score and see how you rate on the Beau-meter! The answers can be found at the bottom of page 29.

MISSING MANAGERS



Can you fill in the missing first names from this sequence of Blues managers? Score one for each.

- a) Barry
- b) Trevor
- c) _____
- d) Alex
- e) _____
- f) Lee

HODGSON'S HOOK-UPS

From the clubs below, can you identify which three were once managed by current England boss Roy Hodgson? Score one for each.



SNACK TIME SCRAMBLE



Can you unscramble these anagrams to find out what snacks you might be buying from the concession stand at half-time? Score one point for each.

WHO AM I?

Can you name this former Blues player from the following five clues? Get one point for the correct answer.



1. I made my first-team debut in the League Cup second-round tie against Rochdale in August 2010.
2. I was the club's second-youngest first team player ever at the age of 16 years and 173 days.
3. I made my first England under-21 appearance in the 2013 European Under-21 Championship finals.
4. I played 82 times for Blues in all and scored nine goals.
5. I left St. Andrew's in the summer to sign for a Premier League side managed by my old Blues boss Chris Hughton

- a) Code Kite
- b) Bait Pile
- c) Arab Mrs



BACK TO SCHOOL

Believe it or not, there is more to life than football and Beau is keen to broaden your horizons and test your general knowledge. This week's 'Back to School' questions are all about literature. Choose the correct answer from the three options given and get one point for each one you get right.

1. Who was Sherlock Holmes famous medical side-kick?
a) Dr Watson, b) Dr Who, c) Dr Foster
2. Who was the one-legged pirate made famous in the book Treasure Island?
a) Long Jim Silver, b) Peg Leg Pete, c) Long John Silver
3. What was the name of Harry Potter's owl?
a) Hagrid, b) Hedwig, c) Frodo
4. In the Roald Dahl Book what does BFG stand for?
a) Big Fat Giant, b) Big Friendly Giant, c) Bald Furry Gnome
5. Complete the title of the famous Doctor Seuss book The _____ in the Hat
a) Bat, b) Rat, c) Cat

THE BEAU-OMETER

- 0-5 **Very poor**
You must do better!
- 6-9 **Not a bad effort**
You still need to apply yourself more though.
- 10-14 **Good**
You can feel pleased but don't rest on your laurels.
- 15-19 **Excellent**
You clearly know your stuff!
- 20 **Top of the class!**
You get an imaginary gold star!



ANSWERS: Missing Managers: c) Steve, e) Chris; **Hodgson's Hook-ups:** Fulham; West Bromwich Albion; Liverpool; **Snack time scramble:** a) Diet Coke, b) Bait Pie, c) Mars Bar; **Who am I:** Nathan Redmond; Stadium Crossword: Across: 1. Trafford, 2. Den, 3. KC, 4. Brisbane; Down: 1. Reebok, 2. Old, 3. Deepdale. **Back To School:** 1. a) Dr Watson, 2. a) Long John Silver, 3. b) Hedwig, 4. b) Big Friendly Giant, 5. c) Cat.

BEAU'S QUIZ-COMPILING ASSISTANT: ANDY BULMAN



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Today's Mascots

Name: Harry Gabbar
Age: 9 (it was my birthday last Monday!)
First Blues game: April 2009 v Wolves, won 2-0
Best Blues game: 2011 Carling Cup Final
Fave Blues players: Chris Burke and Colin Doyle
Fascinating fact about me: I was top scorer for my U8s Sunday side last season with 23 goals from left midfield



Name: Robbie Burrows
First Blues game: v Liverpool (April 26, 2008)
Best Blues game: 2011 Carling Cup Final
Fave Blues player: Chris Burke
Fascinating fact about me: I made it to the last 22 players of the Birmingham City Academy U13s in 2013



Name: Charlie Peacock
Age: 13
First Blues game: v Cardiff City
Best Blues game: v Bristol City
Fave Blues players: Callum Reilly, Wade Elliott and Paul Caddis
Fascinating fact about me: I had my first driving lesson at the age of 12. I'm a football fanatic and play for a local girls team but my second passion is cars and my favourite is an Audi TT



Name: Robert Carter
First Blues game: 2-2 draw v West Ham (November 2010) – the sprinklers came on during the first-half!
Fave Blues game: FA Cup replay v Chelsea (March 2012) – we lost, but good fun taunting Torres!
Fave Blues player: Chris Burke
Fascinating fact about me: I've been a Blues fan since going on my first BCFC football training camp in Malvern



Name: Kian Ollis
Age: 9
Best Blues game: 2011 Carling Cup Final
Fave Blues player: Nikola Zigic



Name: Joseph Paddon
Age: 7
First Blues game: Watford at St. Andrew's (February 2013)
Best Blues game: Blues 4 Sheffield Wed 1 (this season)
Fave Blues player: Chris Burke
Fascinating fact about me: I am sport mad, especially watching and playing football, cricket, golf and tennis



JOSH



ALFIE

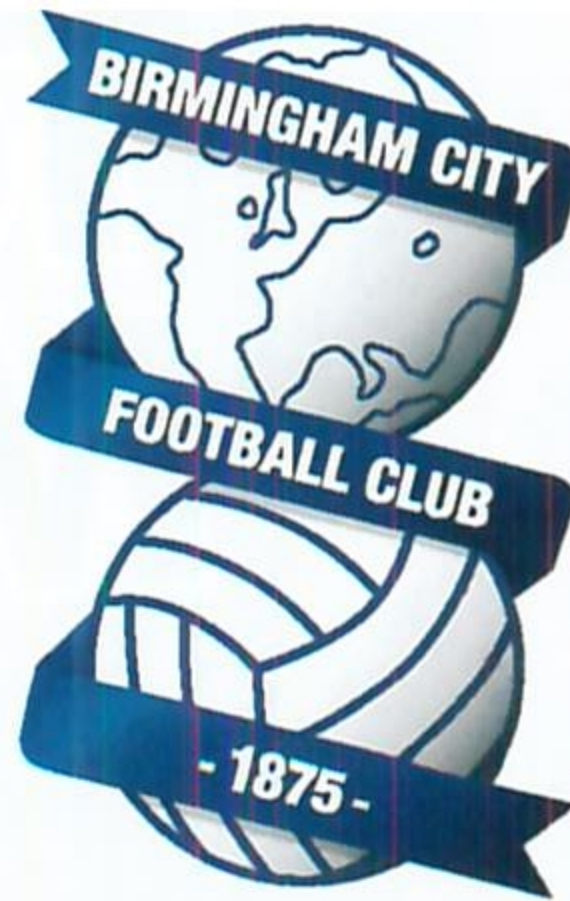


VISITING MASCOT

Name: Lucas Boag
Fave Bolton players: Adam Bogdan and Chris Eagles

Name: Dylon Whitehouse-Rice
Age: 13
First Blues game: Today!
Best Blues game: 2011 Carling Cup Final
Fave Blues players: Darren Randolph
Fascinating fact about me: I enjoy playing football for my local team. I was a good goalkeeper until I fractured my skull last year and now I play at centre-back





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EUROPEAN ADVENTURE

Birmingham City Community Trust ventured into Europe again this summer to coach young players in Norway and Austria. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Trust has travelled to both of these two countries and gained a lot of credit for getting more youngsters engaged in sport.

The camps are run for a week with the Birmingham coaches putting the young Norwegians and Austrians through their paces, working through all areas of the game including defending, attacking and passing, to name but a few. The participants also focus on goalkeeping skills if this is their preferred position.

The Community Trust oversaw more than 200 youngsters between the two camps and in 2014 this number will increase as we will be holding another camp in Norway in a different area due to the high demand.

Birmingham City Community Trust would like to thank all participants and their parents in both Norway and Austria. And a special mention must go to Jan Henrik (Norway) and Erich Schlichther (Austria) for all their help and logistical organisation to make both camps a success.



COMMUNITY TEAM

Community Director:
Dean Holtham

Football Development School
and Education Manager:
Louise Macey

Development School
Lecturers and Coaches:
Kevan Broadhurst, Martin O'Connor, Dele Adebola, Tom Palmer, Craig Gill and John Healy

Sports Scientist:
Richard Kirby

Enterprise Academy
Coordinator: **Joe Holtham**

Schools, Football Camps and
Development Centre Officer:
Mitchell Holtham

Kickz Coordinator and
Physiotherapist: **Dean Spink**

Community Coaches:
Guy Clark, Anthony Fitzmaurice, Liam Maher, Jamie Spencer, Omari Sterling James, Lee Verman and Rob Wormold.

Finance Officer:
Gareth Payne



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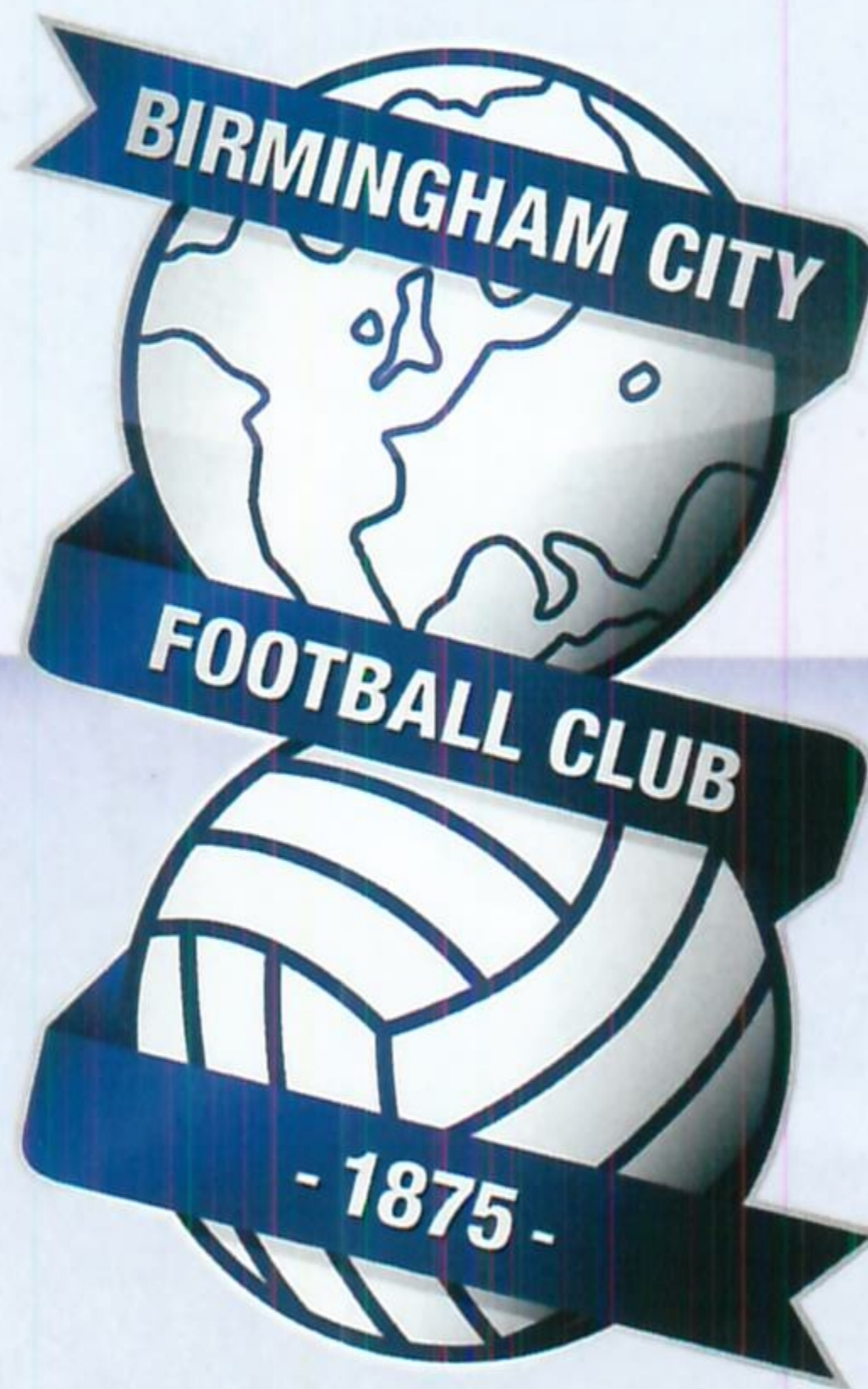
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HALF-TIME TEASERS

BY ERIC PARTRIDGE

SHARED HISTORY

- 1 Currently on loan to Bolton from Leicester, Neil Danns made his Blues debut against the same team he had left during the previous summer. Can you name his former club?
- 2 Former Blues and Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba represented England at five different age levels from U16 through to the U21 squad (while playing for Blues), but in which country was he actually born?
- 3 Now chief executive of the PFA, which tricky winger made 424 combined league appearances for both of today's sides between 1962 and 1976?
- 4 Although he netted over 100 goals for Bradford City and Burnley, which striker could only manage three in a Blues or Bolton shirt later in his career – and one of those was against Blues for Bolton!
- 5 With which French club did former Blues and Bolton defender Bruno N'Gotty score the winning goal to lift the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1996?
- 6 Which former Blues keeper was signed in 2001 by this afternoon's visitors but made just five appearances in the next four years?
- 7 Name the ex-Trotter who formed a much-feared striking trio at Blues with Trevor Francis and Bob Latchford during the early 1970s.
- 8 Currently first-team coach at the Reebok, which former Eire international played six games on loan at St. Andrew's from Middlesbrough in late 2001?
- 9 Name the former England international defender who was a firm favourite at St. Andrew's during the early 80s and went on to manage this afternoon's visitors between 1995 and 1999.

TODAY'S VISITORS

- 11 Name the Bolton striker who famously netted the first-ever goal at Wembley in their 1923 FA Cup Final victory over West Ham.
- 12 Name another legendary Bolton striker who was dubbed the 'Lion of Vienna' following his fearless display for England against Austria in 1952.
- 13 What was the name of Bolton's former home for 102 years prior to the development of the Reebok Stadium.
- 14 For which midlands side did Bolton manager Dougie Freedman sign in 1997/98?
- 15 Name the former England international keeper who made 578 appearances for today's opponents between his debut in 1952 and retirement in 1970.

- 10 A prolific scorer in his first spell at Bolton with 102 goals from 277 outings, Neil Whatmore moved to Blues in the early 1980s. Can you name his swashbuckling partner with whom he had forged such a formidable attacking force at the Trotters but failed to make the same impact when the pair were reunited at St. Andrew's?



PLAYED FOR BOTH TEAMS



15

ANSWERS

1. Colchester United; 2. Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo); 3. Gordon Taylor; 4. Robbie Blake; 5. Paris Saint-Germain; 6. Kevin Pooley; 7. Bob Hutton; 8. Curtis Fleming; 9. Colin Todd; Frank Worthington; 11. David Jack; 12. Nat Lofthouse; 13. Burnden Park; 14. Wolves; 15. Eddie Hopkinson.

CELEBRATING

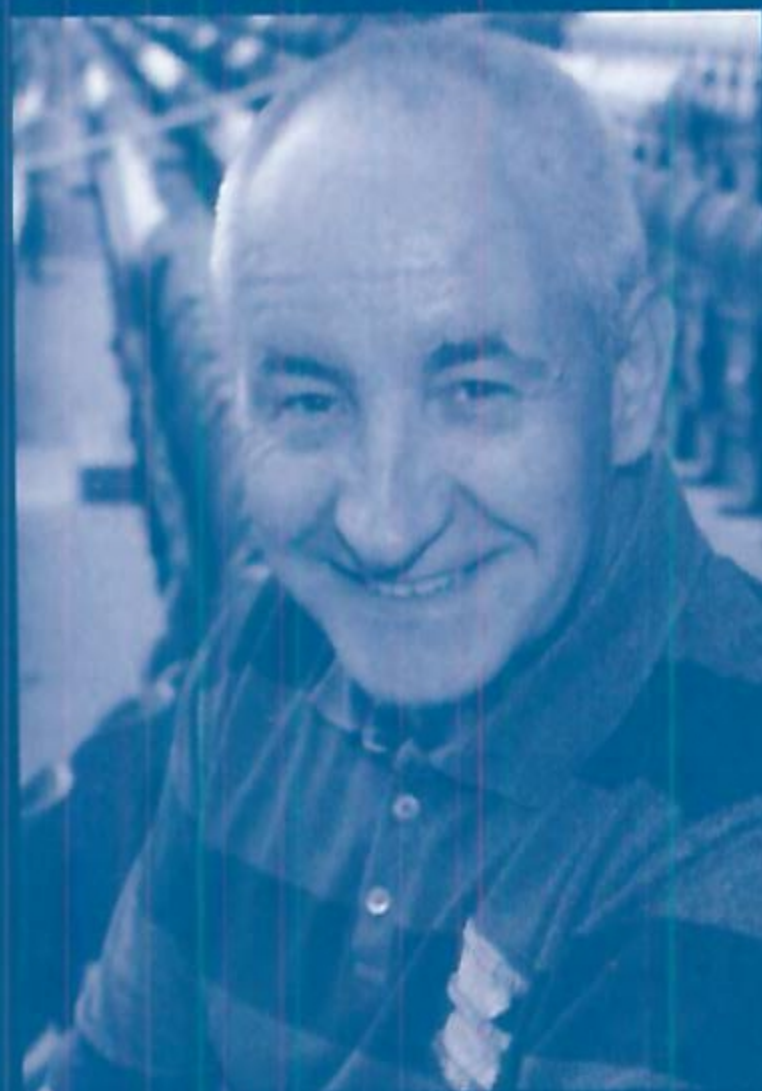


YEARS OF
THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- 1888 The World's original league formed
- 1891 Goal nets and penalty kicks were introduced
- 1892 2nd Division introduced
- 1898 Automatic promotion & relegation introduced
- 1901 Maximum wage introduced
- 1914 Footballers' Battalion formed
- 1920 Football League expands to 66 clubs and introduces a Third division
- 1921 Expanded to 88 clubs with 3rd Division North & South
- 1925 New offside law introduced
- 1927 BBC broadcast first live football league match on the radio
- 1939 League suspended due to World War II
- 1949 Record attendances of 41 million first time in matches
- 1951 White ball used for the first time in matches
- 1956 First floodlit game Portsmouth v. Newcastle United
- 1958 Division 3 & 4 formed to replace regional 3rd Division
- 1960 First ever live Football League match shown on television
- 1961 Maximum wage abolished
- 1965 Keith Peacock becomes first Football League substitute
- 1966 Substitutions for any reason permitted
- 1974 The first ever Football League match played on a Sunday
- 1976 Goal difference replaces goal average
- 1981 3 points for a win introduced
- 1983 Canon become first sponsor of The Football League
- 1986 Football League Play-Offs introduced
- 1987 2 substitutes per team introduced
- 1996 Peter Shilton become first player to make 1000 league appearances
- 2004 Divisions renamed Championship, League 1 and League 2
- 2009 Social media presence launched
- 2012 Financial Fair Play introduced



Find out more at:
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FOREVER BLUE

TRAVELLER'S TALES FROM 2013 FAN OF THE YEAR ROB SHANNON – A HOME AND AWAY GAME EVER-PRESENT FOR ALMOST FOUR DECADES

My first experience of Bolton's old Burnden Park ground came in September 1965 and I have a special reason for remembering that particular game as I was the Blues mascot for the day.

My dad organised the away travel for the supporters club at that time so he arranged for me to be the team mascot on a few occasions. There were generally two coaches that ran to away games, one of them wouldn't make the return journey home until much later in the evening, allowing fans lots of extra drinking time in the supporters club of whoever we were playing. There would often be some sort of entertainment, a singer or comedian – supporters clubs were very popular in those days. We enjoyed a good evening in the Bolton Wanderers supporters club that night. They were very hospitable, even though we'd beaten them 2-1! I was only seven at the time so it was a long day by the time we got back to Birmingham, but a very memorable trip.

In August 1967 we played at home to Bolton on the opening day of the season – a game you can read more about elsewhere in today's Blues News. I remember being very excited when my dad returned home from a Friday afternoon drink in the supporters club with a copy of the programme for the following day's match. It was my ninth birthday on the day after the game, so that was a great early present and a real treat to have the programme 24 hours before everyone else! I remember going around and showing all my friends the programme for 'tomorrow's game' – it was a real scoop!

I remember going to Burnden Park in April 1991. It was two days before we played Brentford in the second leg of the Leyland Daf Cup Area Final and so many Blues fans made the trip to Lancashire that I ended up having to stand up in the home end. My friend and I snuck into the Bolton end and it was a little intimidating, particularly after Johnny Gayle scored with a bullet header, but the locals were in a pretty good mood by the end as they ran out 3-1 winners!

My final Bolton-related memory relates to their most legendary all-time player. Part of my job during the early 1980s involved fundraising for non-league side Nuneaton Borough, as they were

known back then. I helped to run a lottery known as Lifeline, which was actually initiated by Bolton's then commercial manager Alf Davies. It was an idea that was copied by other clubs up and down the country. The Nuneaton chairman asked Bolton if they could come down and give a presentation on how it all worked, and who should turn up but none other than the late, great Nat Lofthouse, who had been installed as a figurehead for the venture. We went out for lunch afterwards at a local Beefeater and all the locals in the pub were very taken aback – you wouldn't expect to see Nat Lofthouse in Nuneaton! To this day I still kick myself that I never asked him for his autograph!



Ian Rodger takes on Bolton's Tony Philliskirk during the April 1991 league game at Burnden Park – which Rob watched from the home end.

**ROB HAS SEEN
BLUES PLAY
BOLTON 47 TIMES
– 20 AWAY AND 27
AT HOME.**

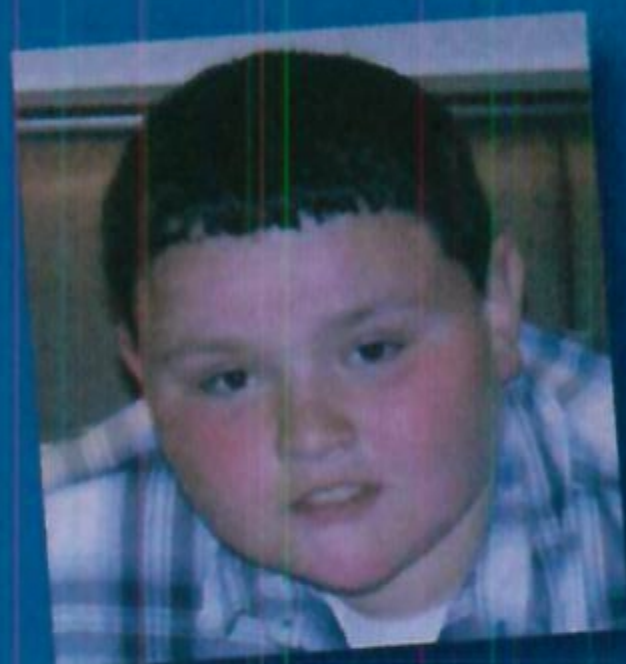
NOTICEBOARD

This is your chance to surprise a friend or relative with a birthday message and photo in Blues News. It doesn't just have to be birthdays! Maybe there is a new Bluenose that has just been born in your family? Perhaps someone you know is coming to their first ever Blues game or has recently attended their first match?

Whatever it is, just send a short message, with a photo, to: sarah.gould@bcfc.com; or write to Sarah Gould, Noticeboard, Birmingham City Football Club, St. Andrew's Stadium, Birmingham. B9 4RL. Don't forget to mention if there is a particular programme you would like the greeting to be included in.

JACK IN THE PROGRAMME

Happy birthday Jack from Mom and family.



THE GOLDEN COUPLE

Congratulations to lifelong Blues fan Ron Fenn and his wife Mary who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this Thursday. Their daughter Lorraine Jones tells Blues News: "Blues have always been a part of our family and to this day Dad still enjoys his matchdays. When she was younger Mum had a season ticket too!"



FLYING THE FLAG

Here we see Bluenoses Gary and Elise flying the flag (and towel!) for Blues during a recent holiday in Majorca. And it's Gary's birthday tomorrow — have a great day!



ROYAL BLUE FAMILY

Three generations of Bluenoses — Alan, Martin and Josh Staien. KRO forever.



COFF UP

Karen Coffey, affectionately known as 'Coff' is 50! Happy birthday with all our love from all the Cannell family. KRO.



BIRTHDAY BLUE

Happy 25th Birthday Anthony from the lads in the GML.



KEEP RIGHT ON SPENCER

The Bennett family have been in touch with the club to let us know about their son Spencer, who was born on August 1, 2013, with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, meaning all the right side is doing the work for the whole heart. His mum and dad, Theresa and David, included the following message: "We would like to say that our little heart soldier Spencer is the bravest little boy. He is so strong and will keep going through this long road ahead of him with all the love and support from family and prayers from everyone."



WINNING TEENAGER

Happy 13th birthday to Robbie, we love you loads, from Mom, Dad, Becky, Dani and Hunny. Keep Right On little Bluenose!



SHOUT-OUT FOR CHANDAN

Happy birthday for today to Chandan Patel.



FOUR-MIDABLE LIAM

Happy fourth birthday to our little Bluenose Liam! Lots of Love from Mummy, Daddy, Kayleigh, Shannon, Connor, Nathan, Leanne, Chanel and baby Oscar. Xxx



BILL FOX R.I.P.

The club were very saddened to hear of the death of lifelong Blues fan and season ticket holder Bill Fox, who passed away in August. Our sincere condolences go out to all his family and friends.

FEATURED FANS



Name
Ian Smith
Age
29
Hometown
Solihull
Occupation
HR Business Partner

I became a Blues fan because...

It's a family tradition – I'm a fourth generation Bluenose, I started going to matches when I was 11 with my dad; 18 years later I've only missed four games.

ABOUT BLUES...

What do you remember from your first Blues game?

Quite a lot – December 1995 vs. Watford, I remember the stadium looking massive and the roar from the fans when Kevin Francis scored the winner with a header at the Tilton in a 1-0 victory.

What is your best ever Blues memory?

It has to be the Carling Cup

Final; it still makes me shiver when I reminisce. I do have some other great memories too.

Which game would you like to forget?

Probably the play-off semi-final vs. Watford in 1999. The defeat to Liverpool in the Worthington Cup Final is a proud memory because we were fantastic on the day

Which Blues player from the past would you most like to see in today's team?

There are a lot but the one who would benefit us the most would be Craig Gardner. Players like Larsson, Savage, Queudrue, Lazaridis and Dugarry too! My dad would say Kenny Burns!

BLUES



Name
John Leather (from voiceofbolton.com)
Age
31
Hometown
Bolton
Occupation
DJ

I became a Bolton fan because...

I went to a game with a friend at Burnden Park as a child and I was instantly hooked.

ABOUT THE TROTTERS...

What do you remember from your first Bolton game?

The crammed-in, lively atmosphere and the terraces reverberating with exciting chants. Although Bolton ultimately lost the game against Hartlepool in 1992, the atmosphere was enough to make Bolton feel like the club for me.

What is your best ever moment following the Wanderers?

My favourite moment was a rather cult victory – a League Cup fourth round tie against Premier League side Tottenham in the 1996/97 season. The game started brightly, Bolton going 1-0 up through legendary striker John McGinlay before

Teddy Sheringham equalised with a brilliant free-kick. At that moment as the underdogs I feared Spurs would go on to a comfortable win. Yet, Bolton really turned on the style, with two more goals from McGinlay, plus strikes from Nathan Blake, Gerry Taggart and Scott Taylor. Towards the end of the game Wanderers fans started to chant 'we want ten'. This was quite unknown territory for Bolton and was pretty much the perfect performance.

Which game would you like to forget?

The FA Cup semi-final against Stoke in 2011; on such a big day it felt as if the team didn't turn up. Many can point to that match as the turning point in the fate of Bolton Wanderers to this day.

Which Bolton player from the past would you most like to see in today's team?

I can always remember strong defensive figures for Bolton in the past,

THE TROTTERS



THE CURRENT TEAM...

What are your thoughts about the start the side has made to the current campaign? Clarky has got us trying to play good, passing football and with the squad he's got we're doing okay, as well as could be expected.

Now that the transfer window has shut, what did you make of the comings and goings at St. Andrew's? Gutted to see Marlon leave but Caddis is a good player for this league.

Which player has most impressed you during the first few weeks of the season? Darren Randolph looks very solid.



Darren Randolph

Who is your favourite player from the current squad? Chris Burke or Callum Reilly.

Which player from the current Millwall squad has most impressed you from past experience? Chung-Yong Lee.

What is your prediction for today's game? I can never bet

against us, ever the optimist; 4-0 with a Zigic hat-trick would be nice! Realistically 1-1.

It's still early days but how do you think the season will pan out for Blues? If we can turn intermittent good spells into good performances; I hope we can finish mid-table. I would be happy with another season of consolidation.

perhaps none more so than Gudni Bergsson, who was still plying his trade at the heart of the Bolton backline late into his 30s. His passion and ability never wavered and he led the team from the back brilliantly.

THE CURRENT TEAM...

What are your thoughts about the start your side has made to the current campaign? There are two ways to look at it. The first is based on Bolton having five points from their opening ten games, still without a win, second bottom of the Championship. The other is to suggest the club have played four promotion contenders, two of those who were playing Premier League football last season. There have been a significant number of personnel changes so it's likely the

squad may struggle at first. It's not yet time to push the panic button, as things could easily change over the next month.

Who is your favourite player from the current squad? Jay Spearing is a personal favourite because of the commitment and consistency in his performances. He's often at the start of every build-up play, makes important tackles and even chips in with the odd goal from time to time.

Which player from the current Birmingham squad has most impressed you from past experience? Nikola Zigic has always been impressive in past appearances against Bolton. His sheer height and power are enough to frighten defences.

What is your prediction for today's game? It looks as if Clark has got Birmingham playing well this season and is building a good youthful squad. I think there should be reasons for excitement in the future for Birmingham City. I hope for an entertaining 2-2 draw.

It's still early days but how do you think the season will pan out for the Trotters? As D:Ream once sang, things can only get better! The start hasn't been kind but I have the faith that once Freedman realises his best starting 11 and irons out the mistakes that Bolton will drastically improve over the course of the season. I'd say that Bolton should still be aiming for a top-half finish, but I'm not sure the squad at this stage are strong enough to be promotion contenders. It would be an absolute pleasure to be proven wrong though.

We all think that we can pick a better team than the manager... well, here's your chance to prove it. Throughout this season in Blues News one fan will select their 'Fantasy X1' from all the players that have represented the club over the years. It's not as easy as you think when you've literally got hundreds of players vying for a place in your team!

Next to take up the challenge is Richard Carroll, who has been following Blues for 38 years and has been a season ticket holder for the last 18 of those. He'll be watching today's game from his usual seat in the Railway End.

If you'd like to take part in this programme feature and the opportunity to see your all-time Blues XI immortalised in print, then register your interest by dropping an email to: peter.lewis@bcfc-tg.com.

FAN-TASY FOOTBALL



01

TONY COTON
GOALKEEPER

Great goalkeeper, brilliant shot-stopper, brave and good penalty-saving record.



02

JIMMY CALDERWOOD
FULL-BACK

Skilful attacking right-back with good vision and awareness.



03

MARK DENNIS
FULL-BACK

Talented left-back, brave and got forward well.



SCOTT DANN
CENTRE-HALF

Brilliant centre-half who had a strong aerial presence but was good on the deck as well. A really classy act.



05

KENNY BURNS
CENTRE-HALF

Brave defender, marauding with an eye for goal. He played in numerous positions for Blues but he's going in at centre-half in my team. He once scored a goal with his back!



DAVID DUNN
MIDFIELDER

Very skilful midfielder with great vision.



07

ALAN CAMPBELL
WINGER

A great winger with an eye for goal.



08

**TREVOR FRANCIS
STRIKER**

My greatest all-time Blues player – an extremely talented, attack-minded game-changer who could conjure a goal out of nothing. TF was a joy to watch.



09

**BOB LATCHFORD
STRIKER**

Brilliant and no-nonsense goal machine; brave to a fault with strength and vision.



10

**BOB HATTON
STRIKER**

Another goal machine – he knew where to be at the right time.

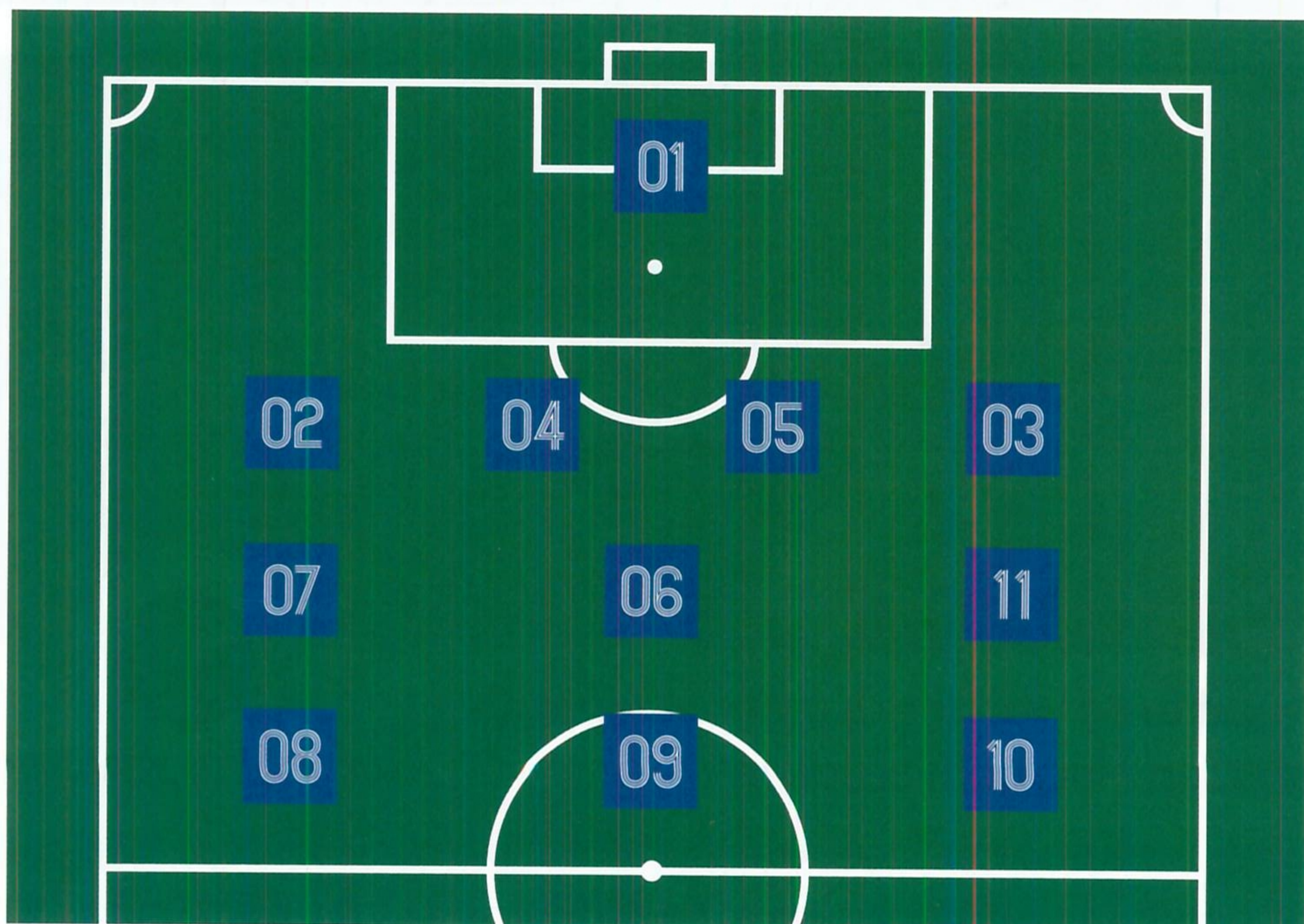
11

**GORDON TAYLOR
WINGER**

Fast, aggressive winger who could beat defenders with ease.

**SUBS
ON THE
BENCH**

- Ian Bennett
- Stephen Carr
- Joe Gallagher
- Robbie Savage
- Mikael Forssell

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FREDDIE
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NUMBERS GAME

6

FROM 1967 TO 1989 BLUES WON SIX SUCCESSIVE HOME GAMES WITHOUT CONCEDED AGAINST BOLTON, SCORING 19 UNANSWERED GOALS IN THE PROCESS.

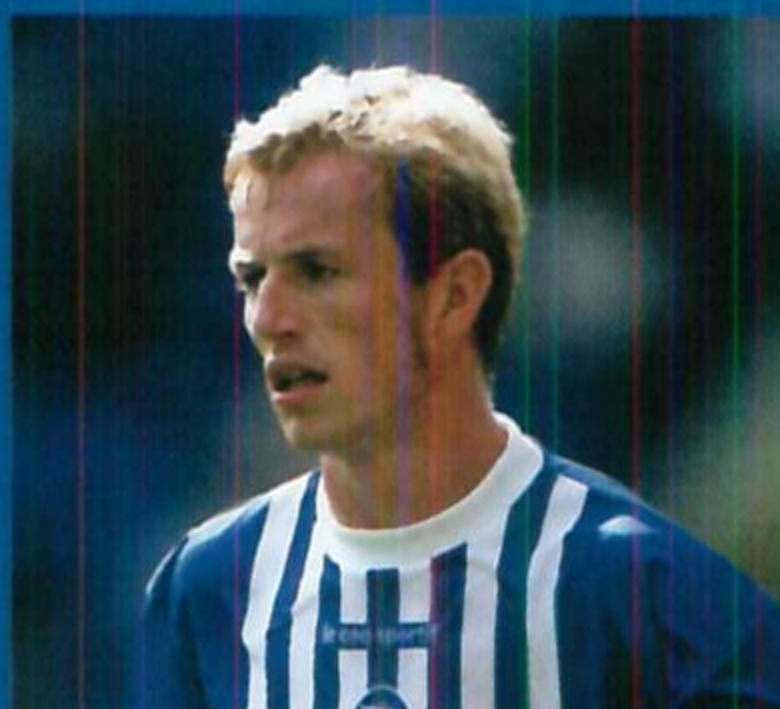
7

NEITHER SIDE HAS FAILED TO SCORE IN THE LAST SEVEN ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN TODAY'S TWO TEAMS.

21



ARSENAL STALWART BILLY BLYTH PLAYED 343 MATCHES FOR THE GUNNERS IN 15 YEARS AT HIGHBURY BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO ST. ANDREW'S AND OPENING HIS ACCOUNT FOR BLUES AGAINST TODAY'S VISITORS WITH A BRACE IN MARCH 1930. HE NETTED JUST FOUR GOALS IN 21 APPEARANCES BEFORE BOWING OUT OF THE PROFESSIONAL GAME WITH A LAST APPEARANCE FITTINGLY AGAINST ARSENAL.



11

FULL-BACK GARY ROWETT SCORED HIS FIRST OF 11 GOALS FOR BLUES IN ONLY HIS SEVENTH APPEARANCE FOR THE CLUB IN OUR 3-1 AWAY DEFEAT TO BOLTON IN SEPTEMBER 1998.

29

A PROLIFIC SCORER IN SCOTLAND AND THEN MANCHESTER CITY PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL AT ST. ANDREW'S FOR A THEN CLUB RECORD £42,000 FEE, ALEX HARLEY SCORED NINE GOALS IN 29 GAMES IN JUST OVER A YEAR, MAKING HIS DEBUT IN THE SEASON OPENER AT HOME TO BOLTON IN 1963.

33



FRANK WORTHINGTON SCORED 33 GOALS IN 88 APPEARANCES FOR BLUES, AFTER WE SIGNED HIM FROM BOLTON WANDERERS, WHERE HE HAD ACHIEVED A SIMILAR GOALS-PER-GAME RATIO.

58

ANDERS LIMPAR PLAYED 58 TIMES FOR SWEDEN, BUT MADE ONLY FIVE APPEARANCES FOR BLUES IN 1997, MAKING HIS DEBUT COMING ON AS SUBSTITUTE IN A 2-1 DEFEAT AWAY AT BOLTON.

598

LEFT-BACK SIMON CHARLTON MADE 598 FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES THROUGHOUT HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER, 78 FOR BLUES AND 135 FOR THE TROTTERS AFTER WE SOLD HIM TO TODAY'S VISITORS IN 1998.





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TODAY'S VISITORS...

BOLTON
WANDERERS

Sky Bet Championship strugglers Bolton Wanderers pay a visit to St. Andrew's this afternoon as boss Dougie Freedman schemes to resolve his side's poor start to the season. Second from bottom of the table, Bolton's tepid launch of their 2013/14 campaign – their second successive year at this level – certainly wasn't on most bookmakers' cards.

Thirty-nine-year-old Freedman arguably had a busier summer than most, facilitating the moves of 22 players to and from the Reebok Stadium. Having

captured the signatures of Jermaine Beckford and Jay Spearing, most people would have fancied Bolton for a crack at promotion six weeks ago. Five points from their first ten matches left Freedman with the untimely and unexpected obligation to already assure fans he is still the man for the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bolton won the FA Cup three times during the 1920s with a total of just 17 players featuring in all the finals.

Sensing a need for new faces and adding to the squad's already enormous depth, Liam Feeney and Kevin McNaughton have recently been loaned in on a short-term basis. The third temporary recruit

made by the Wanderers boss is ex-Blues midfielder Neil Danns. The 30-year-old, who made only two Capital One Cup appearances for Leicester City this season, went straight into the Wanderers line-up for Tuesday's goalless draw at Blackpool.

As Bolton continue to search for their first three-point haul of the campaign, they won't look too shabbily on their overall record at St. Andrew's. The teams have met on this ground a grand total of 63 times since 1894 and the Trotters have come out on top on 15 occasions, with 14 draws and 34 wins for Blues. Fortunately for the spectator there has only been the one 0-0 draw since 1956 and there have been three or more goals in each of the past eight meetings between the sides, so Adam Bogdan and Darren Randolph may find themselves with plenty to do between the sticks this afternoon.

Freedman will be anxious to get Bolton back to what they would feel is their rightful position in football's top flight. The Trotters have been relegated three times from the Premier League but have found a way back each time to date, so this season's poor start comes as an acute worry.

Bolton salvaged a final-minute point at home against Yeovil seven days ago thanks to Alex Baptiste's last-gasp header, extending their winless league run to 11 matches dating back to the end of last season. Freedman told the Bolton faithful: "I understand the fans' frustration. They pay good money and they want short-term results and that's completely fine".



Former Blues loanee Rob Hall looks to fend off the attentions of Yeovil's Paddy Madden in last weekend's draw at the Reebok.

HEAD TO HEAD

	League Home	League Away	FAC Home	Total
P	59	59	4	122
W	32	7	2	41
D	14	18	0	32
L	13	34	2	49
F	104	57	8	169
A	64	126	8	198

LAST 5 VISITS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2012



APRIL 2, 2011



MARCH 12, 2011 (FAC)



SEPTEMBER 26, 2009



SEPTEMBER 15, 2007



TROTTERS LATEST

Winless Wanderers come into this afternoon's game off the back of an encouraging draw from their midweek trip to Blackpool. Dougie Freedman's side may still be looking for that first victory of the campaign but they took heart from collecting a point at a notoriously difficult venue. Bolton became the first team this season to stop the Seaside from finding the net on their Bloomfield Road patch and Freedman was pleased with a hard-working display from his side in the goalless stalemate. The former Crystal Palace boss is confident that the first success of the season isn't far away. "We showed great desire and spirit and I thought we were the better team," he told the official Bolton website. "If we'd had a little more luck, which I think will come because I think we're only an inch away, we will win games like that. Anybody who knows about football can see that during these past three or four games that we're very, very close."

Freedman opted to throw all three of his recent loan signings – Liam Feeney, Kevin McNaughton and former Blues man Neil Danns – into the fray and he felt that the trio made a difference. McNaughton, who has joined the Trotters for a month from Cardiff City to get valuable game-time, enjoyed pulling on a Bolton shirt for the first time. He told bwfc.co.uk: "It is good to be back playing and overall it was a decent performance. We are ready to go again at the weekend against Birmingham City and fingers crossed we actually get the result we are looking for. The team has struggled to get their first win but we were knocking on the door against Blackpool and hopefully if we do that on Saturday the first three points will come."

Wanderers will definitely be without Marc Tierney today with the defender set to be sidelined for a prolonged period of time after fracturing a bone in his foot against Yeovil last Saturday.

ROLL-CALL

SQUAD NO. AND NAME	POSITION	D.O.B.	SIGNED FROM	APPS/GLS(13/14)
1. Adam Bogdan	Goalkeeper	27/09/87	Vasas (2007)	10/0
2. Tyrone Mears	Defender	18/02/83	Burnley (2011)	3/0
4. Matt Mills	Defender	14/07/86	Leicester City (2012)	6/0
5. Tim Ream	Defender	05/10/87	New York Red Bulls (2011)	7/0
6. Jay Sparring	Midfielder	25/11/88	Liverpool (2013)	9/0
7. Chris Eagles	Midfielder	19/11/85	Burnley (2011)	6/1
9. David N'Gog	Forward	01/04/89	Liverpool (2011)	9/0
10. Jermaine Beckford	Forward	09/12/83	Leicester City (2013)	11/1
11. Robert Hall	Forward	20/10/93	West Ham (2013)	8/1
12. Zat Knight	Defender	02/05/80	Aston Villa (2009)	9/0
14. Andre Moritz	Midfielder	06/08/86	Crystal Palace (2013)	5/0
15. Alex Baptiste	Defender	31/01/86	Blackpool (2013)	12/3
16. Mark Davies	Midfielder	18/02/88	Wolves (2009)	0/0
17. Kevin McNaughton	Defender	28/08/82	Cardiff City (2013, loan)	1/0
18. Neil Danns	Midfielder	23/11/82	Leicester City (2013, loan)	1/0
20. Joe Riley	Defender	13/10/91	Academy	0/0
21. Darren Pratley	Midfielder	22/04/85	Swansea City (2011)	9/2
22. Stuart Holden	Midfielder	01/08/85	Houston Dynamo (2009)	0/0
23. Marc Tierney	Defender	23/08/85	Norwich City (2013)	9/0
24. Andrew Lonergan	Goalkeeper	19/10/83	Leeds United (2012)	2/0
25. Josh Vela	Midfielder	14/12/93	Academy	1/0
26. Liam Feeney	Midfielder	21/01/87	Millwall (2013, loan)	2/0
27. Chung Yong-Lee	Midfielder	02/07/88	FC Seoul (2009)	10/0
28. Craig Davies	Forward	09/01/86	Barnsley (2013)	6/0
31. David Wheeler	Defender	14/02/87	Middlesbrough (2011)	7/0
34. Jay Lynch	Goalkeeper	31/03/93	Academy	0/0
38. Oluwasanmi Odelusi	Forward	11/06/93	Reading (2009)	5/2
44. Medo Kamara	Midfielder	16/11/87	Partizan (2013)	10/0

ONE TO WATCH

BY ARUN VERMA

JERMAINE BECKFORD

They often say that a player's career can hinge on moments; it's the decisions they take, and the moves they make, along with the unquantifiable concept of talent and promise that we often use to decide whether someone has reached their full potential.

Having initially started his career at Chelsea, Jermaine Beckford then had to drop down the leagues, plying his trade for Isthmian Premier League side Wealdstone. Windscreen-fitter for the RAC by day, and footballer by night, Beckford fought back, and secured a move to Leeds United in March 2006. Up until that point, the forward had scored a mightily impressive 35 goals in 40 games.

Despite a slow start to his Whites career, which included a loan spell at Carlisle United, it was a temporary stint at League One side Scunthorpe United that was the catalyst for an upturn in fortunes. Beckford started all 18 games during his spell with the Iron, scoring eight goals, as the Lincolnshire club secured promotion to the Championship. Scunthorpe got the glory, but Beckford's contribution would not be forgotten. Upon his return to Elland Road, Beckford was integrated into the starting XI, scoring his first goal for the club against Southend United in August 2007.

After a strong season, bagging 20 goals in 43 league appearances, Beckford went from strength to strength, notching 33 and 31 goals in the following campaigns and thus becoming one of the hottest properties outside the top flight. Having allowed his contract to run down, Beckford then moved to Everton in the summer of 2010.

However, 34 appearances and only eight goals later, he was on the move again, this time to Leicester City. In a period of flux for the club, Beckford was one of the casualties, spending time on loan at Huddersfield Town last season. Blues fans will remember the move for all the wrong reasons, with Beckford scoring his first goal for the Terriers at St. Andrew's in a 1-0 away win.

Consequently, after spending time at eight clubs in ten years, Beckford moved to Bolton this summer, and has since made 11 appearances, scoring his first goal for the club in the Capital One Cup-tie against Tranmere Rovers. The 29-year-old has yet to find the net in a league fixture but went agonisingly close at Blackpool in midweek, hitting the post and also seeing a goal-bound header turned aside by Seasiders custodian Matt Gilks. He got a vote of confidence from his manager after the game though, with Dougie Freedman insisting: "You've

got to be brave enough to get in there and miss them. Jermaine isn't shying away from his responsibility. A bit of fortune will come his way if he keeps doing that."

HAVING HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF PLAYING WITH DOUGIE FREEDMAN AT LEEDS, I KNOW I CAN LEARN A LOT FROM HIM.

Beckford described his decision to move to the Reebok as a "no brainer", adding: "Not only is it a great club, but having had previous experience of playing with Dougie Freedman at Leeds, I know I can learn a lot from him."

If one thing is for sure, it is that Beckford certainly has learnt a lot during his career to date, and he has come a long way, from the orange RAC jacket to Bolton white. He definitely is a talent and a player that Blues will need to a keep a tight rein on today.



INSIDE WRITE

CHRIS QUINN TALKS TO FORMER BOLTON WINGER AND NOW THE CLUB'S UNDER-18 COACH, DAVID LEE.

The old adage claims that "it's grim up north", but try telling that to former Bolton Wanderers hero David Lee. Having grown up in the north-west, starting his football career at Bury where he spent six years, Lee moved to the opposite end of the land – but after challenging a club legend, he was soon back to his roots.

"At Bury, Martin Dobson gave me a one-year contract for my attitude as much as my technical ability and that was the lucky break I needed. I had six great years there afterwards before moving to Southampton," explains Lee. "Moving to the south coast was quite the culture shock for me, to go down there and see the different ways of life. It was a great experience for me, but I was competing for a place with Matt Le Tissier down there."

"The manager, Ian Branfoot, originally signed me to replace Le Tissier – but because Matt was so

determined to stay he turned down Spurs and Chelsea. I played a few games in my first season, but I had a clause that would have triggered a payment of around £100,000 to Bury when I played the 25th match. I got to 24 games and never played again. Obviously you're fighting a losing battle when you're up against somebody like Le Tissier, so I ended up in the reserves where Bruce Rioch spotted me and took me to Bolton."

Lee's time with Wanderers coincided with some of the Trotters' most memorable games. A 2-0 win against Liverpool in a 1993 FA Cup replay was avenged by the Reds in the 1995 Coca Cola Cup Final before Bolton were crowned champions of English football's second tier in 1997. But which success gave Lee the most pleasure? "The one that got the most publicity was the Anfield game. It was the FA Cup, it was on the BBC and we were in the Second Division at the time. Everybody had written us off as

a foregone conclusion, but that summarised the commitment and desire of the club at that time. That result kick-started our next five years and when we played in the cup final that was the catalyst for another period of success which culminated in the promotion-winning side. We had a reunion a couple of months ago and everybody remembers that Liverpool game like it was yesterday, which shows the magnitude of the victory."

But Lee may also have a secondary reason for ranking that match as his most memorable. In one of those twists that seemingly only football can throw up, Bolton's trip to Anfield saw the club rake in enough revenue to be able to afford the transfer fee to turn his loan deal into a permanent contract. He explains: "I had a chat with Bruce and said I enjoyed my time there, but he said every Bolton fan would need to put an extra quid each into the club to make the deal happen. Thankfully,

THE BOLTON NEWS' REGULAR WANDERERS REPORTER MARC ILES PROVIDES FURTHER EXPERT INSIGHT INTO TODAY'S VISITORS...

What have you made of the ins and out at the Reebok since the end of last season?

It has been a real period of change for the club, illustrated by the fact only four of the players who started against Blackpool on the final day of last season were actually playing against them at Bloomfield Road the other night. Familiar faces like Kevin

Davies and Marcos Alonso left in the summer and it certainly hasn't been easy for the new boys. Marc Tierney has picked up a nasty injury and Jermaine Beckford just needs a bit of luck in front of goal. It has been great to get Jay Spearing back and Rob Hall has been a real hit with the fans. Alex Baptiste also put in his best performance of the season, for me, against his old club on Tuesday night.

Dougie Freedman's men currently find themselves second from bottom of the Championship table. Have the performances warranted a better points return?

After going a goal down against Yeovil it seemed the situation dawned on a few people and the response against Blackpool was



David Lee takes on Phillip Neville during a Premier League game against Manchester United in 1996.

Southampton allowed me to play in the FA Cup game, which ultimately financed my move."

Lee now occupies the role of U18s manager at the Reebok Stadium. England's failing on the

international stage this summer, especially at youth level, meant that the future of the game in this country came under the spotlight. So does Lee feel that a quota on foreign players would help? Or is it down to the mentality of today's

youngsters? "It's a bit of both really. There is the mentality side where the young players of today get far too much before they've achieved anything. Some are earning thousands of pounds a week without even making a senior appearance. But you can't blame the players for that. You have to look at the culture of football now; the agents and the clubs for financing these deals."

He concludes: "Unfortunately, money is the root of all evil. If you don't have the passion, desire and willingness to go and play first-team football then it will be your downfall. Clubs need to keep players grounded and get the work ethic instilled into them. Then once they're established they can reap the rewards. Some players get the world at their feet and lose the passion to play in the first-team. At Bolton we have the youth players doing jobs around the training ground – there's no razzmatazz about the place. We have our fun, but we have the respect too."

excellent. They should have won both games, though, and that will only come when they start putting away the chances that are being created.

How confident are you that Freedman can start to turn the club's fortunes around?

If the team can start scoring goals then there is no reason why this season should be a write-off. The addition of three loan players – Kevin McNaughton, Neil Danns

and Liam Feeney – has added a fresh feel to the team and I don't expect them to be in the bottom three by this time next month. We went from 20th to sixth in four months last season, so if we can be in mid-table by Christmas I see no reason why the play-offs should be unachievable even with everything that has happened.

What is your prediction for today's game against Birmingham City?

It will be a close one, that's for sure. And if Paul Robinson is on the pitch it'll be a hotly-contested one too (top man, Robbo, by the way). But Bolton's luck has got to change some time and where better than the ground where my favourite memory of covering the club was made? The FA Cup quarter final was as good as it has got in recent years, so it would be nice to see some happy away fans again. I'm going for 1-0 to Wanderers.

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U16's:	£15

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KIERAN'S CHARITY SKY DIVE



Blues fan Kieran Stanley is preparing to take to the skies in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

The 16-year-old, pictured here meeting Blues stars at a recent signing session in Solihull, will be taking part in a sky dive in Nottingham on Sunday October 27. Kieran may look familiar to many Blues fans as he was granted an EZE Wish by the club's current diamond partner EZE Group last season.

The Sheldon youngster was given a rare insight into important matchday preparation by helping Blues' kit manager Denis Butler set up the home dressing room at St. Andrew's ahead of last season's visit of Sheffield Wednesday in February. As well as having his experience screened on BBC Midlands Today, Kieran also got to meet several of his favourite Blues stars before being treated to VIP hospitality in the EZE Group executive box. Kieran was

nominated for the wish having bravely battled cystic fibrosis since the age of one.

He is now doing his bit for a charity close to his heart and is calling on Bluenoses to support his cause by logging on to <http://www.doitforcharity.com/KieranS> and donating. Kieran has already surpassed his required target of £395 to do the sky dive but would love to boost the coffers further.

SING WHEN YOU'RE SWAPPING!

In the eyes and minds of die-hard supporters everywhere, swapping footballing allegiances is nothing short of sacrilege.

No Blues fans would even entertain the idea anyway. But as principal partners and avid Bluenoses themselves, Nicolites are actually encouraging you to swap for the entire month of October and see how much better you feel. They want Blues fans that already smoke to switch from tobacco to a Nicolites e-cigarette as part of our 'Swaptober' nationwide campaign. Look out for their team who will be handing out free samples before and during today's match.

They've also launched their 'Birmingham Kicks Butt'

competition to find the best Swaptober success story. Research has shown that people who manage to stop smoking for 28 days are five times more likely to stop for good. For those who struggle, their message is: Can't stop? Just swap! To further encourage Blues fans that smoke to swap to Nicolites for the month, custom-made 'Blues' e-cigarettes will soon be available for fans to use inside St. Andrew's. Each blue-coloured e-cigarette will carry the club logo and a tip that glows blue and, because they aren't subject to the smoking ban, they can be enjoyed before, during and after kick-off throughout the stadium. You'll be able to buy them at kiosks throughout the ground soon.

So keep right on throughout Swaptober, and discover why Nicolites Kicks Butt!

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KICKS
BUTT**

swaptober.
CAN'T STOP? JUST SWAP!

ACADEMY

U18 PDL2 NORTH 2013/14 FIXTURES

DATES	Opponents	Venue	KO/Score
Sat Aug 17	Sheffield Wednesday	H	3-2
Sat Aug 24	Leeds United	A	1-3
Sat Aug 31	Coventry City	H	2-2
Sat Sep 14	Nottingham Forest	A	3-1
Sat Sep 21	Brighton & Hove Albion	H	1-2
Sat Sep 28	Bristol City	H	2-2
Sat Oct 5	Derby County	H	11am
Sat Oct 12	Swansea City	A	TBC
Sat Oct 19	Barnsley	A	TBC
Sat Nov 2	Huddersfield Town	H	12pm
Sat Nov 9	Queens Park Rangers	A	TBC
Sat Nov 23	Sheffield United	A	11.30am
Sat Nov 30	Crewe Alexandra	H	12pm
Sat Dec 14	Coventry City	A	TBC
Sat Jan 11	Nottingham Forest	H	TBC
Sat Jan 18	Derby County	A	TBC
Sat Feb 1	Leeds United	H	12.00pm
Sat Feb 8	Sheffield Wednesday	A	TBC
Sat Feb 15	Millwall	H	1pm
Sat Feb 22	Sheffield United	H	11.30am
Sat Mar 1	Charlton Athletic	A	TBC
Sat Mar 8	Crewe Alexandra	A	11.30am
Sat Mar 15	Barnsley	H	TBC
Sat Mar 29	Huddersfield Town	A	12pm
Sat Apr 5	Brentford	A	TBC
Sat Apr 12	Cardiff City	H	TBC

Home fixtures are played at West Hills and supporters are welcome

U18 2013/14 SEASON PLAYER STATS

Name	App	Goals
Khallem Bailey	0(1)	0
Dominic Bernard	4(2)	0
Jack Challis	0(1)	0
Josh Cogley	4	0
Charlie Cooper	5	0
Sam Deadfield	4	0
Kieran Dunbar	2(4)	1
Demari Gray	2	0
Wesley Harding	6	1
Tom Lang	2	0
Josh Martin	3	0
Kyle McFarlane	3(1)	0
George McGee	5(1)	3
Bobby Moseley	2	1
Edjidja Mbunga	2(2)	0
Corey O'Keefe	0(2)	0
George O'Neill	6	3
Jordan Potter	1	0
Callum Preston	3	0
Viv Solomon	3	1
Connal Trueman	3	0
Liam Truslove	2	1
Reece Webb	4	0

BLUE KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Second-year academy scholar Josh Cogley steps into the hot-seat to answer a selection of questions about his fledgling career and his team-mates...

JOSH COGLEY

Date of birth: 12/03/1996.

Position: Full-back.

What school did you go to?
Myton School.

Do you have a nickname?
Cogs.

How were you spotted by Blues?
I was scouted.

How long have you been at the club?
About three years.

Who has been the biggest influence on you since joining the club?
Mike Dodds (youth development coach).

What are your strengths as a player?
Speed, stamina, getting forward and defending.

If you could improve one part of your game what would it be?
Passing.



What would be a successful 12 months for you now?

Playing for the reserves and training with the first team on several occasions.

What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

To work hard and stay focused.

What boots do you wear?

Adidas F50's.

Are you any good at any other sports?

Yes, basketball, badminton, athletics and boxing.

What other non-footballing sportsman do you most admire?

Michael Jordan and Muhammed Ali.

What is your favourite pre-match meal?

Chicken, pasta and salad.

Who is the most skilful player you have played with?

Ravel Morrison.

Who are your best friends in football?

Everyone.

Do you use Twitter? If so, what is your Twitter name?

Yes. It's @joshDCogley

Which team did you support as boy?

Arsenal.

Who do you think is the best footballer in your position?

Dani Alves.

What is the most memorable match you have played in?

Last season's FA Youth Cup match against West Brom.

Describe yourself in three words?

Hard working, dedicated.



BLUES ACADEMY TEAM- MATES

Best trainer?

Bobby Moseley

Quickest?

George McGee

Best banter?

Reece Webb

Hard man?

Nat Kelly

Biggest joker?

Viv Solomon

Worst haircut?

Dom Bernard

Best dressed?

Dimmi Gray

Biggest moaner?

Charlie Cooper

Future manager?

Reece Webb

LATEST MATCH ACTION

U18s coach Steve Spooner admitted that his side need to tighten up at the back after conceding twice in each of their last two outings. The team's defensive slackness proved costly over the last fortnight as Brighton sealed a comeback victory and then Bristol City snatched a late equaliser to earn a point last weekend.

George McGee had fired Blues in front against the Seagulls at West Hills but the visitors struck back with a goal in each half to secure a deserved victory. Spooner admitted that his side fell well below the standards that were expected of them and said the margin of the loss could have been much greater had Brighton converted their chances. "After taking the lead so early I thought that might be the start of a good performance," he said. "Ten minutes later we had a wonderful opportunity to make it 2-0, which we didn't convert, and that was probably the last thing we were positive about. We lacked physical and mental energy, we didn't pass the ball sharply and we looked devoid of ideas."

Last weekend saw an improved West Hills performance against the Robins but yet again the hosts were punished for their mistakes. Wes Harding headed Blues in front just before half-time but the visitors restored parity almost immediately. It looked as though Spooner's charges had secured victory as Kieran Dunbar side-footed home midway through the second-half but the Bristol side earned a share of the spoils with six minutes left. "Overall we edged it and should have won on chances created," rued Spooner afterwards. "We still need to be a little bit more ruthless in and around that 18-yard box. Our passing and energy levels were much better and I was pleased with the overall performance but we're still making silly errors to gift opposition goals."



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SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE 2013/14

		HOME						AWAY							
	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
1	Burnley	10	3	2	0	10	2	4	0	1	9	4	13	23	
2	QPR	9	4	1	0	6	1	3	1	0	4	1	8	23	
3	Leicester	10	4	1	0	9	4	3	1	1	8	6	7	23	
4	Nottingham Forest	10	4	1	0	10	4	1	3	1	6	6	6	19	
5	Reading	10	3	2	0	8	4	2	2	1	6	4	6	19	
6	Blackpool	10	3	2	0	5	2	2	2	1	8	7	4	19	
7	Watford	10	3	2	0	11	4	2	1	2	9	6	10	18	
8	Blackburn	10	3	1	1	10	4	1	2	2	6	7	5	15	
9	Huddersfield	10	2	3	0	9	4	1	2	2	3	4	4	14	
10	Ipswich Town	10	4	0	1	11	4	0	2	3	6	10	3	14	
11	Leeds	10	2	1	2	6	6	2	1	2	3	4	-1	14	
12	Brighton	10	2	2	1	8	5	1	2	2	2	4	1	13	
13	Bournemouth	10	3	0	2	6	6	1	1	3	7	16	-9	13	
14	Derby	10	0	2	3	6	12	3	1	1	12	5	1	12	
15	Wigan	8	2	2	0	8	5	1	0	3	4	4	3	11	
16	Millwall	10	2	0	3	6	8	1	2	2	4	10	-8	11	
17	Birmingham	10	2	1	2	9	4	1	0	4	3	9	-1	10	
18	Doncaster	9	1	1	3	5	8	1	2	1	4	4	-3	9	
19	Middlesbrough	10	0	4	1	7	8	1	2	2	6	9	-4	9	
20	Charlton	9	1	1	2	3	4	0	2	3	5	10	-6	6	
21	Sheffield Wednesday	9	0	2	2	4	6	0	3	2	5	9	-6	5	
22	Yeovil	10	0	0	5	1	8	1	2	2	4	6	-9	5	
23	Bolton	10	0	3	2	4	6	0	2	3	3	11	-10	5	
24	Barnsley	10	1	2	2	6	13	0	0	5	5	12	-14	5	

TONIGHT'S SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES



2013/14 SQUAD STATS

	2013/2014 SEASON								BLUES CAREER							
	LGE		FAC		LC		TOTAL		LGE		FAC		LC		EL/P-O	
	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G
Tom Adeyemi	10	1	0	0	3	1	13	2	10	1	0	0	3	1	0	0
Scott Allan	1(2)	0	0	0	1(1)	2	2(3)	2	1(2)	0	0	0	1(1)	2	0	0
Darren Ambrose	1	0	0	0	0(1)	0	1(1)	0	4(3)	0	0	0	2(1)	1	0	0
Koby Arthur	0(1)	0	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0	0(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kyle Bartley	5(2)	0	0	0	2	2	7(2)	2	5(2)	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Reece Brown	0(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Burke	6(3)	2	0	0	3	0	9(3)	2	80(16)	23	3(3)	0	6	0	7(3)	1
Dan Burn	10	0	0	0	3	1	13	1	10	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Paul Caddis	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	30	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Colin Doyle	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	27(3)	0	9(1)	0	10(1)	0	5	0
Neal Eardley	5	0	0	0	2	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Wade Elliott	7(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0	7(2)	0	60(21)	8	7	4	1(1)	1	6	1
Shane Ferguson	5(4)	0	0	0	2	0	7(4)	0	16(4)	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Demarai Gray	0(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matt Green	6(3)	1	0	0	2	1	8(3)	2	6(3)	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Mitch Hancox	0(1)	0	0	0	1	0	1(1)	0	14(6)	0	0(1)	0	1	0	0	0
Olly Lee	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	0	0
Jesse Lingard	3	5	0	0	0	0	3	5	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peter Lovenkrands	1(2)	0	0	0	0	0	1(2)	0	14(11)	3	0(1)	0	2	2	0	0
Hayden Mullins	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	25(6)	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
David Murphy	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2	91(12)	7	8	3	6(3)	1	9	2
Lee Novak	7	0	0	0	2	1	9	1	7	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Will Packwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Darren Randolph	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Callum Reilly	2(1)	0	0	0	2	0	4(1)	0	16(5)	1	1(1)	0	2	0	0	0
Paul Robinson	9	0	0	0	2(1)	0	11(1)	0	43(1)	0	2	0	2(1)	0	0	0
Andrew Shinnie	6(1)	0	0	0	1	1	7(1)	1	6(1)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Jonathan Spector	7	0	0	0	2	0	9	0	63(4)	0	4(1)	0	4	1	9(1)	0
Nikola Zigic	0(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0(2)	0	56(41)	25	3(1)	0	3(5)	3	5(1)	1



FIXTURES AND RESULTS



DATE	OPPOSITION		TIME	SCORE	POS	ATT	AWAY	REF	STARTING ELEVEN			
Sat Aug 3	Watford	H	3.00pm	0-1	20	18,830	2,701	P Tierney	Randolph	Bartley	Burn	Robinson
Tue Aug 6	Plymouth Argyle (CAP 1)	H	7.45pm	3-2	-	10,178	668	G Salisbury	Doyle	Eardley	Bartley ¹	Burn
Sat Aug 10	Yeovil Town	A	3.00pm	1-0*	13	8,717	2,060	T Robinson	Randolph	Mullins	Burn	Robinson
Sat Aug 17	Brighton & Hove Albion	H	3.00pm	0-1	18	14,885	1,174	S Hooper	Randolph	Mullins	Burn	Robinson
Sat Aug 24	Leicester City	A	3.00pm	2-3	18	21,229	1,480	E Iderton	Randolph	Mullins	Burn	Robinson
Tue Aug 27	Yeovil Town (CAP 2)	A	7.45pm	3-3	-	3,769	704	D Sheldrake	Doyle	Eardley	Bartley ¹	Burn
Sat Aug 31	Ipswich Town	H	3.00pm	1-1	19	14,328	953	D Drysdale	Randolph	Eardley	Bartley	Burn
Sat Sep 14	Queens Park Rangers	A	3.00pm	0-1	20	16,953	1,723	M Jones	Randolph	Spector	Bartley	Burn
Tue Sep 17	Burnley	A	7.45pm	0-3	21	9,641	420	M Brown	Randolph	Caddis	Bartley	Burn
Sat Sep 21	Sheffield Wednesday	H	3.00pm	4-1	18	14,379	1,649	K Hill	Randolph	Bartley	Burn	Robinson
Wed Sep 25	Swansea City (CAP 3)	H	7.45pm	3-1	-	7,470	709	K Stroud	Doyle	Spector	Burn ¹	Robinson
Sat Sep 28	Reading	A	3.00pm	0-2	19	18,252	1,130	J Adcock	Randolph	Spector	Burn	Robinson
Tue Oct 1	Millwall	H	7.45pm	4-0	17	13,333	232	A Woolmer	Randolph	Spector	Burn	Robinson
Sat Oct 5	Bolton Wanderers	H	12.15pm									
Sun Oct 20	Leeds United	A	1.15pm									
Sat Oct 26	Derby County	A	3.00pm									
Tue Oct 29	Stoke City (CAP 4)	H	7.45pm									
Sat Nov 2	Charlton Athletic	H	3.00pm									
Sat Nov 9	Huddersfield Town	A	3.00pm									
Sat Nov 23	Blackpool	H	3.00pm									
Sat Nov 30	Barnsley	A	3.00pm									
Tue Dec 3	Doncaster Rovers	H	7.45pm									
Sat Dec 7	Middlesbrough	H	3.00pm									
Sat Dec 14	AFC Bournemouth	A	3.00pm									
Sat Dec 21	Nottingham Forest	H	3.00pm									
Thu Dec 26	Wigan Athletic	A	3.00pm									
Sun Dec 29	Blackburn Rovers	A	3.00pm									
Wed Jan 1	Barnsley	H	3.00pm									
Sat Jan 4	FA Cup 3	A	3.00pm									
Sat Jan 11	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	3.00pm									
Sat Jan 18	Yeovil Town	H	3.00pm									
Sat Jan 25	Watford	A	3.00pm									
Tue Jan 28	Leicester City	H	7.45pm									
Sat Feb 1	Derby County	H	3.00pm									
Sat Feb 8	Charlton Athletic	A	3.00pm									
Sat Feb 15	Huddersfield Town	H	3.00pm									
Sat Feb 22	Blackpool	A	3.00pm									
Sat Mar 1	Ipswich Town	A	3.00pm									
Sat Mar 8	Queens Park Rangers	H	3.00pm									
Wed Mar 12	Burnley	H	7.45pm									
Sat Mar 15	Sheffield Wednesday	A	3.00pm									
Sat Mar 22	Reading	H	3.00pm									
Tue Mar 25	Millwall	A	7.45pm									
Sat Mar 29	AFC Bournemouth	H	3.00pm									
Sat Apr 5	Doncaster Rovers	A	3.00pm									
Tue Apr 8	Middlesbrough	A	7.45pm									
Sat Apr 12	Wigan Athletic	H	3.00pm									
Sat Apr 19	Nottingham Forest	A	3.00pm									
Mon Apr 21	Blackburn Rovers	H	3.00pm									
Sat Apr 26	Leeds United	H	3.00pm									
Sat May 3	Bolton Wanderers	A	3.00pm									

CHIPPING GREAT!

The four-goal super show from Blues wasn't the only entertainment for the loyal fans that attended Tuesday's night game against Millwall. The half-time Chip and Win contest also proved to be the most memorable ever as Tilton Road season ticket holder Jack Maguire, roared on by an excitable crowd, won two corporate hospitality packages for today's game, a signed ball and a season ticket for next season. The giant Blues fan celebrated his success by performing a skid across the pitch on his knees. Russell Wilkes, also a Tilton Road season ticket holder, then claimed a signed ball and two hospitality packages for this afternoon's match.

Well done to both Jack and Russell. Two more fans will be plucked from the crowd today to get their chance of winning some great prizes. Listen out to the tannoy at half-time for your opportunity to take part.



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SUB 3

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SENT OFF

SCORER

OWN GOAL



SUBSTITUTES

Eardley	Adeyemi	Shinnie	Elliott	Ferguson	Novak	Green	Allan	Burke	Mullins	Arthur	Reilly	Lee	Doyle
Ferguson	Burke	Adeyemi	Reilly	Arthur	Allan	Novak	Robinson	Elliott	Lee	Mullins	Shinnie	Green	Randolph
Eardley	Adeyemi	Shinnie	Elliott	Ferguson	Novak	Green	Reilly	Bartley	Burke	Arthur	Lee	Allan	Doyle
Eardley	Adeyemi	Elliott	Allan	Ferguson	Shinnie	Novak	Burke	Green	Arthur	Bartley	Hancox	Lee	Doyle
Eardley	Spector	Elliott	Adeyemi	Ferguson	Novak	Green	Shinnie	Bartley	Burke	Ambrose	Reilly	Allan	Doyle
Robinson	Burke	Shinnie	Spector	Adeyemi	Novak	Green	Allan	Ambrose	Lee	Mullins	Elliott	Reilly	Townsend
Robinson	Burke	Shinnie	Spector	Adeyemi	Novak	Lovenkrands	Allan	Ferguson	Green	Mullins	Elliott	Reilly	Doyle
Caddis	Elliott	Adeyemi	Robinson	Burke	Novak	Shinnie	Ferguson	Lovenkrands	Ambrose	Reilly	Lee	Brown	Doyle
Ferguson	Burke	Adeyemi	Ambrose	Spector	Novak	Elliott	Hancox	Brown	Green	Reilly	Shinnie	Lovenkrands	Doyle
Spector	Elliott	Adeyemi	Murphy	Burke	Lingard	Green	Ferguson	Lovenkrands	Caddis	Lee	Shinnie	Brown	Doyle
Caddis	Reilly	Adeyemi	Hancox	Burke	Green	Ferguson	Shinnie	Ambrose	Lee	Arthur	Allan	Lovenkrands	Townsend
Caddis	Reilly	Adeyemi	Murphy	Burke	Green	Lingard	Zigic	Elliott	Ferguson	Bartley	Lee	Shinnie	Doyle
Murphy	Reilly	Adeyemi	Shinnie	Burke	Green	Lingard	Zigic	Bartley	Gray	Caddis	Lee	Ferguson	Doyle

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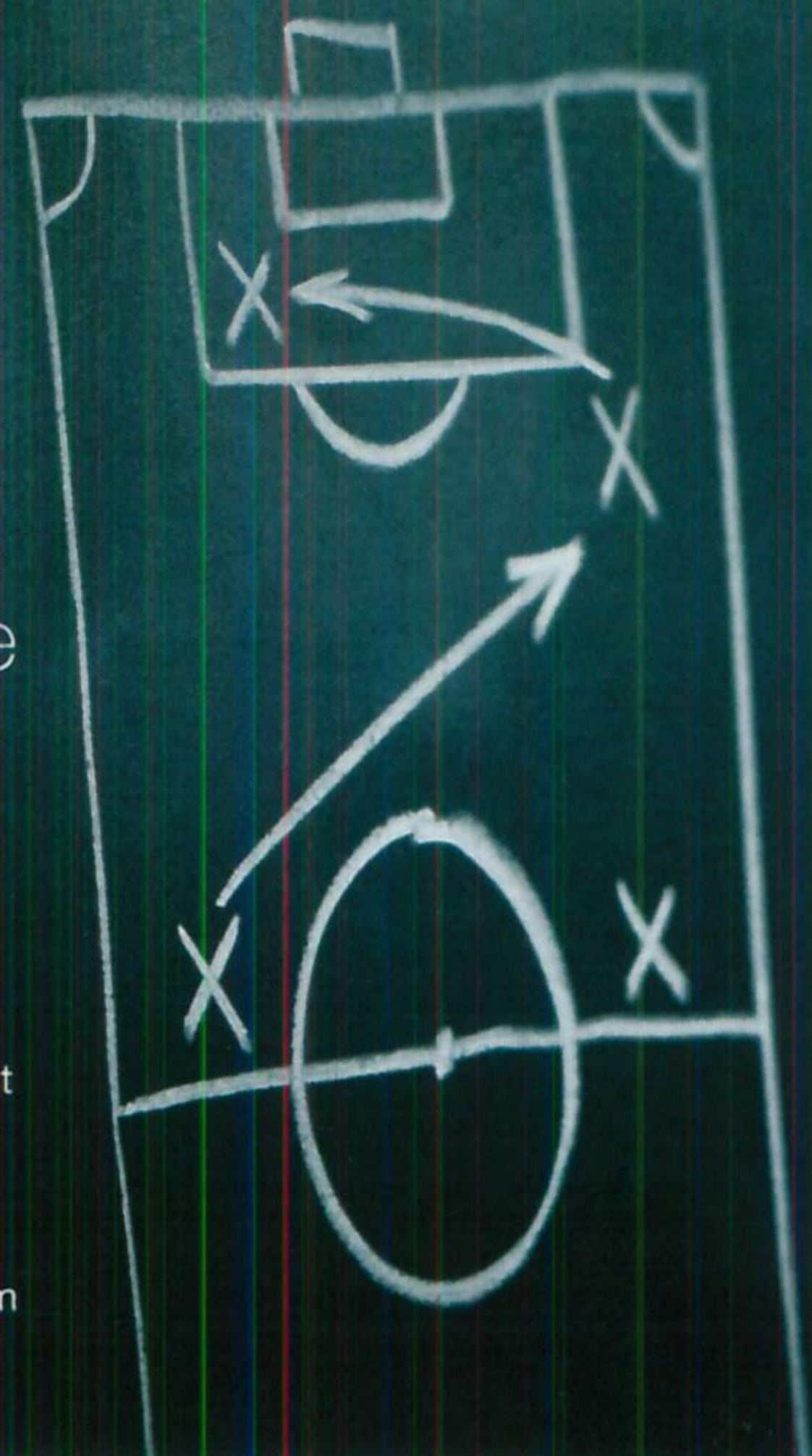
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PARTING SHOT



MURPH'S MAGIC: David Murphy crashes home the opening goal in Tuesday's 4-0 demolition of Millwall.

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First Team Manager: Lee Clark

Assistant Manager: Terry McDermott

First Team Coach: Derek Fazackerley

Goalkeeping Coach: John Vaughan

Development Squad Coach: Richard Beale

Coach: Steve Watson

Academy Manager: Kristjaan Speakman

Chief Scout: Malcolm Crosby

Head of Sports Science: Tom Little

Club Doctor: Mike Stone

Head Physiotherapist: Pete Shaw

Head of Football Administration: Julia Shelton

DECLARATION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

We, the directors, players and staff of Birmingham City FC, along with the people of Birmingham, are opposed to any form of inequality. Football is our national game and should be open to everyone. We pledge to tackle racism, homophobia and any type of discrimination in order to make St. Andrew's a safe and welcoming place for all. The club further believes the adoption of its Equal Opportunities Policy will also:

CLUB HONOURS

Second tier (now Championship) winners:

1893, 1921, 1948, 1955

Second tier runners-up: 1894, 1901, 1903, 1972, 1985, 2007, 2009

Second tier third place (promoted): 1980

Second tier play-off winners: 2002

Third tier (now League One) winners: 1995

Third tier runners-up: 1992

Football League (South) winners: 1946

FA Cup runners-up: 1931, 1956

League Cup (now Capital One Cup) winners: 1963, 2011

League Cup runners-up: 2001

Inter-Cities Fairs Cup runners-up: 1960, 1961

Autowindcreens Shield winners: 1995

Leyland Daf Cup winners: 1991

FA Youth Cup runners-up: 1967

CLUB HISTORY

Year Formed: 1875

Turned Professional: 1885

Limited Company: 1888

Previous Names: 1875 – Small Heath Alliance,

1888 – Small Heath, 1905 – Birmingham,

1945 – Birmingham City

Previous Grounds: 1875 – waste ground near

Arthur Street, 1877 – Muntz Street, 1906 – St. Andrew's

Founder Members of Division Two: 1892/93

Number of seasons in the top tier: 57

Number of seasons in the second tier: 50

Number of seasons in the third tier: 4

Record Victory: 12-0 v Walsall T Swifts,

Division Two, 1892/83 and 12-0 v Doncaster

Rovers, Division Two, 1902/03.

- Raise the general level of consciousness throughout the club.
- Set out and clarify expectations for staff, directors and customers, and other agencies with whom we work to provide professional football and associated services.
- Ensure compliance with the relevant sections of the Race Relations Act 1976.

All-time Appearance Maker:

Gil Merrick (551 apps, 1946-59)

All-time Leading Goal Scorer:

Joe Bradford (267 goals, 1920-35)

Record Attendance: 66,844 v Everton,

FA Cup 5, 11 February 1939

St. Andrew's Hall of Fame Inductees:

Joe Bradford, Kevan Broadhurst, Kenny Burns, Christophe Dugarry, Mikael Forssell, Trevor Francis, Joe Gallagher, Alex Govan, Martin Grainger, Jeff Hall, Bob Hatton, Robert Hopkins, Geoff Horsfield, Roger Hynd, Bob Latchford, Malcolm Page, Gil Merrick, Gary Pendrey.

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Birmingham City will also not tolerate any form of discrimination published on social media platforms and consider taking appropriate legal action where applicable.



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BLUES

MANAGER LEE CLARK

- DARREN RANDOLPH  01 ●
- NEAL EARDLEY  02 ●
- DAVID MURPHY  03 ●
- PAUL ROBINSON  04 ●
- KYLE BARTLEY  05 ●
- DAN BURN  06 ●
- CHRIS BURKE  07 ●
- HAYDEN MULLINS  08 ●
- JESSE LINGARD  09 ●
- DARREN AMBROSE  10 ●
- PETER LOVENKRANDS  11 ●
- LEE NOVAK  12 ●
- COLIN DOYLE  13 ●
- WILL PACKWOOD  14 ●
- WADE ELLIOTT  15 ●
- KOBY ARTHUR  16 ●
- CALLUM REILLY  17 ●
- MITCHELL HANCOX  18 ●
- NIKOLA ZIGIC  19 ●
- OLLY LEE  20 ●
- AKWASI ASANTE  21 ●
- ANDY SHINNIE  22 ●
- JONATHAN SPECTOR  23 ●
- TOM ADEYEMI  24 ●
- MATT GREEN  25 ●
- SCOTT ALLAN  26 ●
- SHANE FERGUSON  27 ●
- RYAN HIGGINS  28 ●
- REECE BROWN  29 ●
- NICK TOWNSEND  30 ●
- PAUL CADDIS  31 ●
- DEMARAI GRAY  33 ●

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

DAVID COOTE

ASSISTANT REFEREES

RICHARD KENDALL
ADAM MATTHEWS

FOURTH OFFICIAL

MARK HAYWOOD



BOLTON WANDERERS

MANAGER DOUGIE FREEDMAN

- 01  ADAM BOGDAN
- 02  TYRONE MEARS
- 04  MATT MILLS
- 05  TIM REAM
- 06  JAY SPEARING
- 07  CHRIS EAGLES
- 09  DAVID NGOG
- 10  JERMAINE BECKFORD
- 11  ROBERT HALL
- 12  ZAT KNIGHT
- 14  ANDRE MORITZ
- 15  ALEX BAPTISTE
- 16  MARK DAVIES
- 17  KEVIN McNAUGHTON
- 18  NEIL DANNS
- 20  JOE RILEY
- 21  DARREN PRATLEY
- 22  STUART HOLDEN
- 23  MARC TIERNEY
- 24  ANDREW LONERGAN
- 25  JOSH VELA
- 26  LIAM FEENEY
- 27  CHUNG-YONG LEE
- 28  CRAIG DAVIES
- 31  DAVID WHEATER
- 34  JAY LYNCH
- 38  OLUWASANMI ODELUSI
- 44  MEDO KAMARA

NEXT UP
AT ST. ANDREW'S



STOKE CITY

CAPITAL ONE CUP 4
TUESDAY OCTOBER 29
KICK-OFF 7.45PM